

## THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 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: Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:7 ESV*

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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### 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 love 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** “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven ” Green Book 549

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*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,  
**II** 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.



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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.  
 C: **And also with you.**

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

*Genesis 50:15-21*

L: A reading from Genesis.

*God sees evil in Joseph's family and turns it into good.*

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

<sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALMODY

*Psalm 103:8-13*

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



<sup>8</sup>The Lord is full of compas- | sion and mercy,\* slow to anger and | of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup>**He will not al- | ways accuse us,\* nor will he keep his an- | ger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according | to our sins,\* nor rewarded us according | to our wickedness.

<sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high | above the earth,\* so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is | from the west,\* so far has he removed our | sins from us.

<sup>13</sup>**As a father cares | for his children,\* so does the Lord care for | those who fear him.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

L: A reading from Romans.

*What does it mean to die in the Lord? Just as important, what does it mean to live in the Lord?*

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

P: <sup>21</sup>Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had

taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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

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**SERMON** Pastor Tom Jacobson

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*The people may be seated.*

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**HYMN OF THE DAY** “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy” Green Book 290

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*The people stand.*

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**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.**

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**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*

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**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.*

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**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): “Come Find Forgiveness and Love” Kim Lutz, flute*

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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 now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,

Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

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

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-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

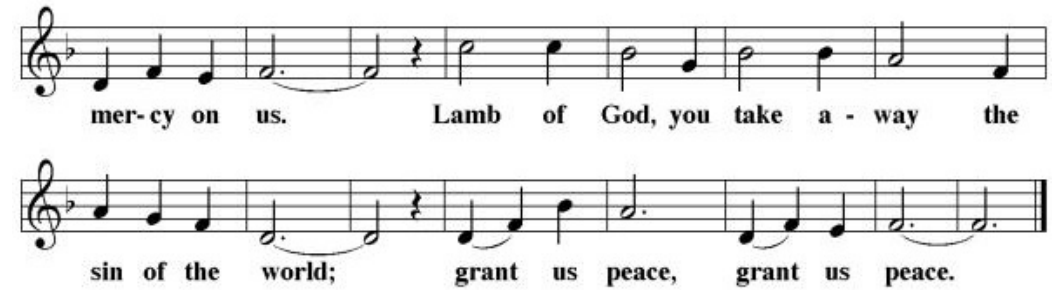
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.*



## 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 296, 494, 309*

## 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 - joice 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** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Green Book 559

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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*

*Be merciful,  
JUST AS YOUR FATHER  
is merciful.*

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**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. 18 Dag Hammarskjöld, peacemaker, 1961

Sept. 21 ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 17 PENTECOST (SEPTEMBER 24)**

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Jonah 3:10-4:11

Philippians 1:21-30

Psalm 145:1-8

Matthew 20:1-16