

*Therefore keep  
watch, because you  
do not know the day  
or the hour.*

*Matthew 25:13*

## **THE 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 12, 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 are glad you are with us.

### **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 - LBW Setting 2

*Watchword: Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. - Colossians 1:12 RSV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | 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

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Blue Book 771

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*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center aisle 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



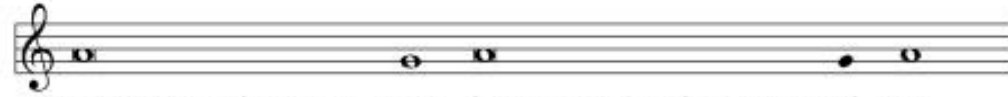
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



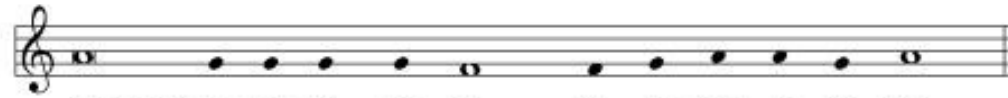
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



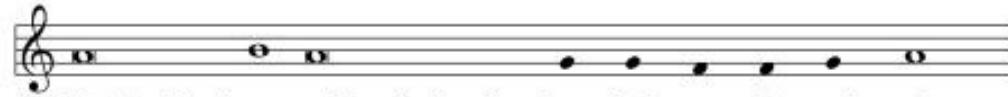
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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,



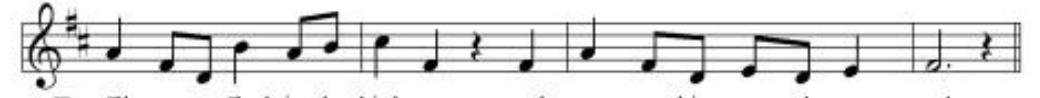
let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



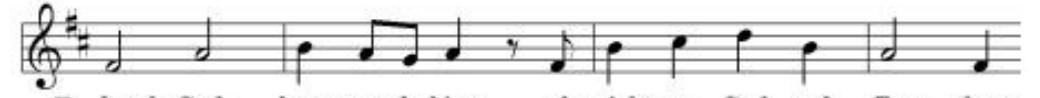
A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. C A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A=Leader; C=all voices



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:



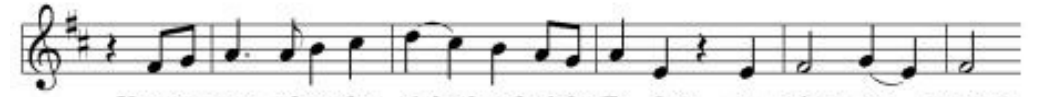
We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



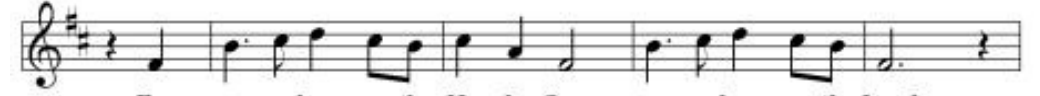
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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. Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Amos 5:18-24*

L: A reading from Amos.

*God desires that our actions match our worship. God desires that justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

<sup>18</sup>Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, <sup>19</sup>as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup>"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

## PSALMODY

*Psalm 70*

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



<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;\* O Lord, make | haste to help me.  
<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogeth- | er dismayed;\*  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over | me turn back,\*  
because they | are ashamed.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;\* let those who love  
your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am | poor and needy;\* come to me speedi- | ly, O God.

<sup>6</sup>**You are my helper and | my deliverer;\* O Lord, | do not tarry.**

### THE SECOND LESSON

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*What hope do the dead have? What hope do we who are alive have? The one who died and rose again: Jesus Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together

with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words. of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

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

**THE VERSE**

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*The people stand.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**THE GOSPEL**

*Matthew 25:1-13*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for

yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

Pastor Theresa Jacobson

*The people may be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness”*      Green Book 224

*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

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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.*

*Special Music by Men of Grace: "When Peace Like a River"*

## 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.

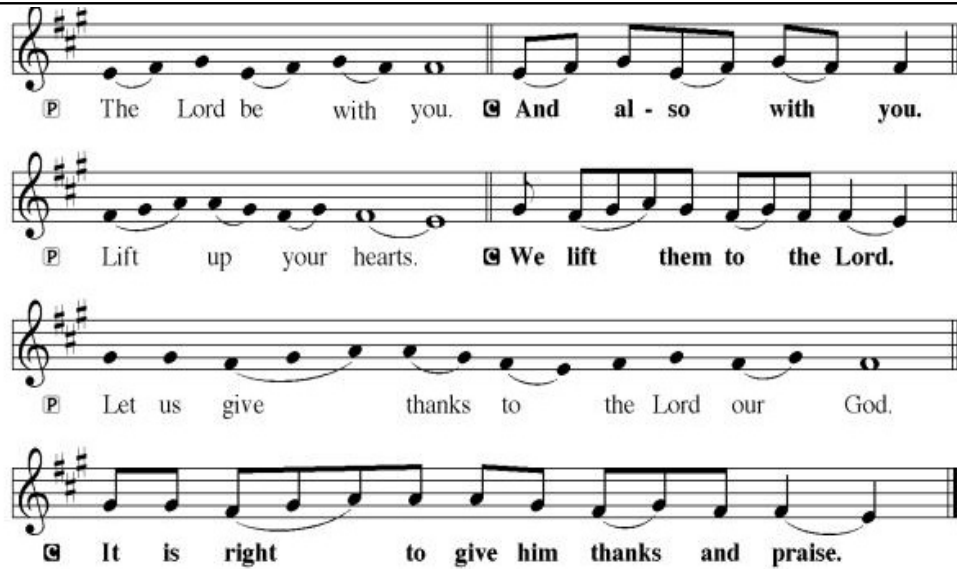
### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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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.

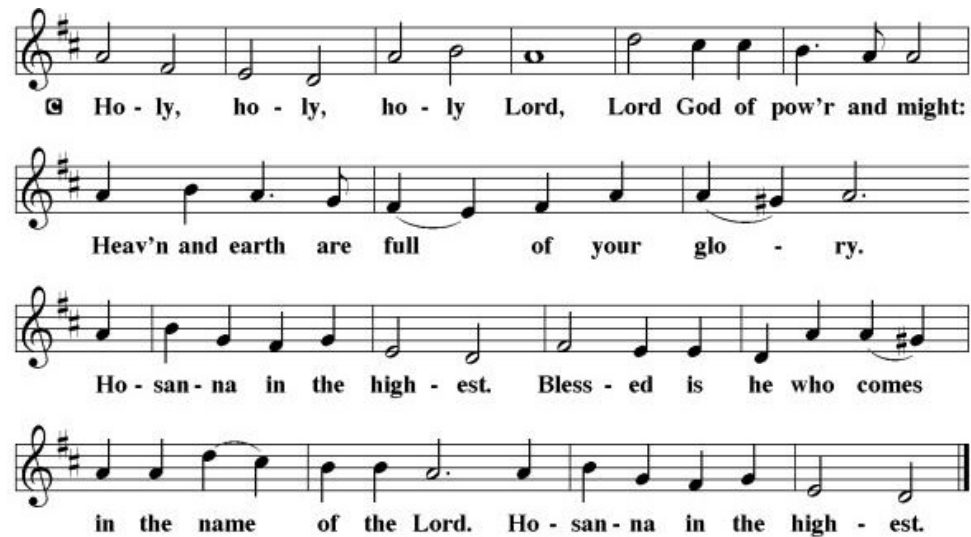
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, 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

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

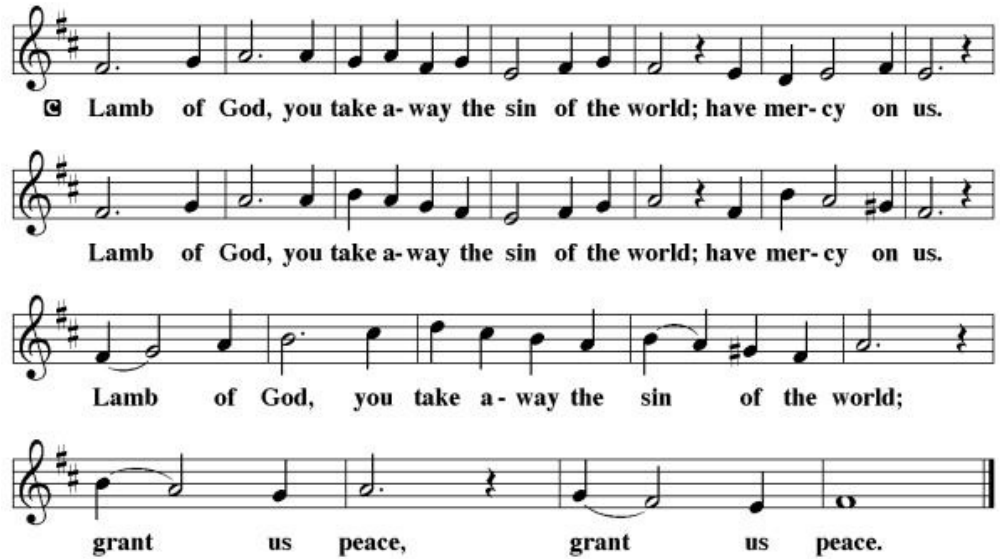
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

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

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

and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Blue Book 710, 783, 734*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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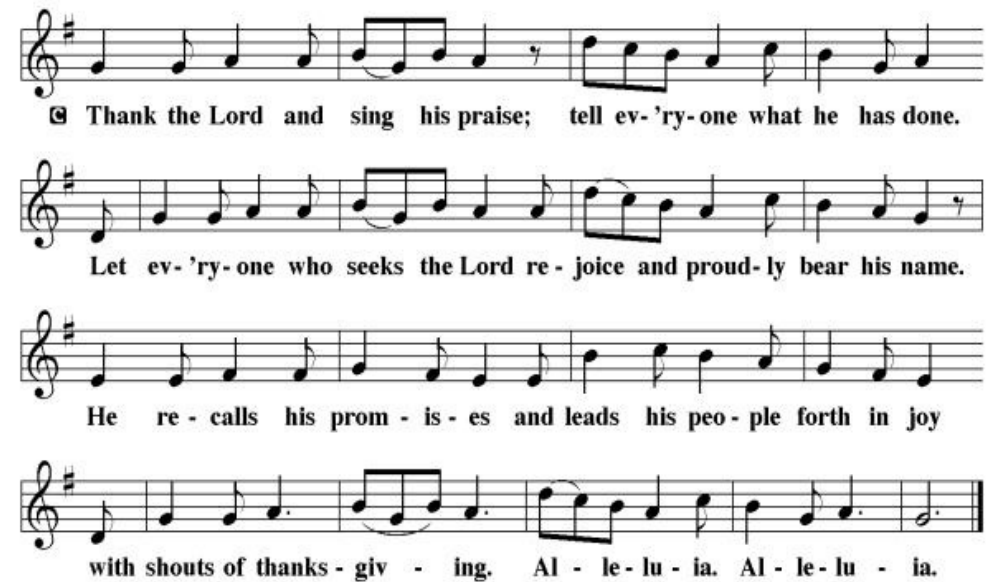
*The people please stand.*

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 the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



*Sending*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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☐ 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**

*"Blessed Assurance"*

Blue Book 699

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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*

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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:

Nov. 17 Elizabeth of Thuringia, Princess of Hungary, 1231

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 25 PENTECOST (NOVEMBER 19)**

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Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalms 90:1-12  
Matthew 25:14-30