



## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 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 believe that the Gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners by his death and resurrection, but also the power by which God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the Gospel as the central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In preaching and Holy Communion, in specially selected Bible readings and songs, prayers and confessions, the liturgy points us to Jesus as our gracious Savior.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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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 1

*Watchword: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." - Isaiah 43:1 ESV*

### 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**      *"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"*      Blue Book 713

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

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A=Leader; C=all voices

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

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

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

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P: Let us pray. God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

L: A reading from Isaiah.

*Rain and snow nourish the ground and cause growth leading to food. God's Word has a purpose as well, and our faith is the outcome.*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

Psalm 65:1-13

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



<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;\* to you shall vows be performed | in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>**To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh come,\* because of | their transgressions.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stron- | ger than we are,\* but you will | blot them out.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!\* They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,\* O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are | far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make fast the mountains | by your power;\* they are girded | about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring | of the seas,\* the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;\* you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it | very plenteous;\* the river of God is | full of water.

<sup>10</sup>**You pre- | pare the grain,\* for so you provide | for the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;\* with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

<sup>12</sup>**You crown the year | with your goodness,\* and your paths over- | flow with plenty.**

<sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,\* and the hills be | clothed with joy.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

L: A reading from Romans.

*The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, also dwells in us and will give new life to our mortal bodies. Living in Christ, there is no condemnation for us.*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE VERSE

*The people please stand.*



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

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear." <sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no

root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"*     Green Book 234

*The people stand.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✝ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition:*

*A: Lord, in your mercy,    C: hear our prayer.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## The Liturgy of Holy Communion

### THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

### OFFERING

*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

*Special Music: "I Believe" by John Ulmer*

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*The people stand.*



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

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

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

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### THE PREFACE

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

### THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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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!**

*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.

## 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, one side of the congregation will receive communion at a time, with ushers dismissing one pew at a time to maintain appropriate distance between those communing. Those coming forward to receive are asked to cup their hands so that the bread may be dropped into their hands. After you have received the bread, an usher wearing gloves will provide each person with an individual cup that will then be filled with wine by the assisting minister using a pouring chalice. Only individual cups with grape juice will be filled beforehand. Coming forward to receive only the bread is perfectly acceptable. The church teaches that the entire Christ is



received in both the bread and the wine. Those choosing not to receive communion can come forward for a blessing — signaled by having your arms crossed over your chest. When you have communed, you may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 224, 225, 226*

## 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 all who seek 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. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through 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 - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

## SENDING HYMN

*"Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes"*

Green Book 338

## 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:

July 17 Bartolomé de Las Casas missionary to the Indies, 1566

July 22 St. Mary Magdalene

July 23 Birgitta of Sweden, 1373

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 8 PENTECOST (JULY 23)**

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Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:12-25

Psalms 86:11-17

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

