

## THE 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 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: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.  
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

### PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "Let There Be Light"



### 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



### Gathering

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

*"Battle Hymn of the Republic"*

Green Book 332

*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



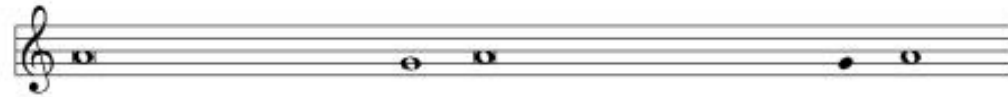
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



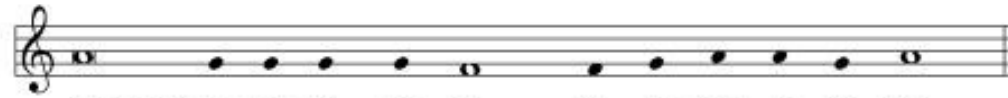
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



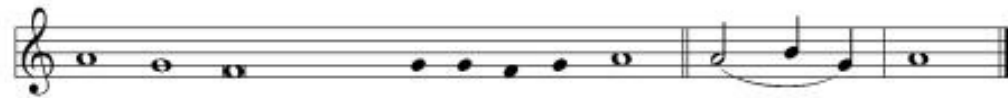
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



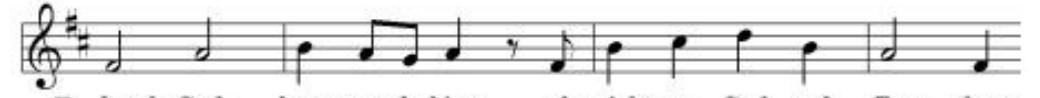
A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. C A - men

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:



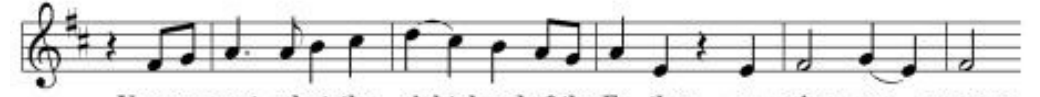
We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



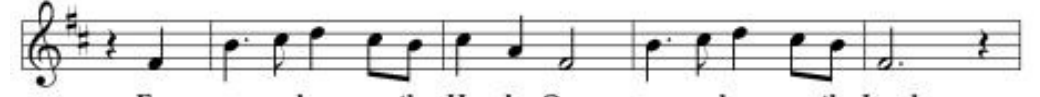
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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,



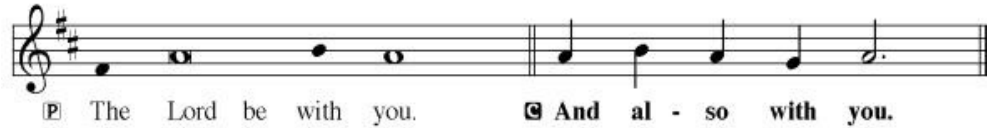
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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P: Let us pray. Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people to seek more eagerly the help you offer, that, at the last, they may enjoy the fruit of salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

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*Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18*

L: A reading from Zephaniah.

*Zephaniah speaks of the coming day of the Lord, when God's judgment will be revealed.*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup>Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of

trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY

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*Psalm 90:1-12*

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



<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have | been our refuge\* from one generation | to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,\* from age to age | you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the | dust and say,\* "Go back, O | child of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past\* and like a watch | in the night.**

<sup>5</sup>You sweep us away | like a dream;\* we fade away suddenly | like the grass.

<sup>6</sup>**In the morning it is | green and flourishes;\* in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we consume away in | your displeasure;\* we are afraid because of your wrathful | indignation.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have | set before you,\* and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our | days are gone;\* we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;\* yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power | of your wrath?\* Who rightly fears your | indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to num- | ber our days,\* that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*We are called to be children of the light while we wait for the day of the Lord. God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

## THE VERSE

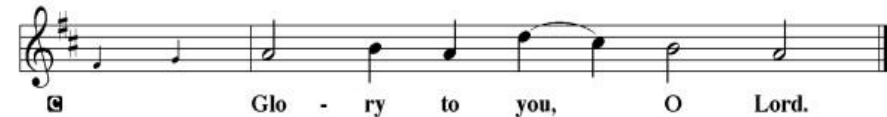
*The people stand.*



## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

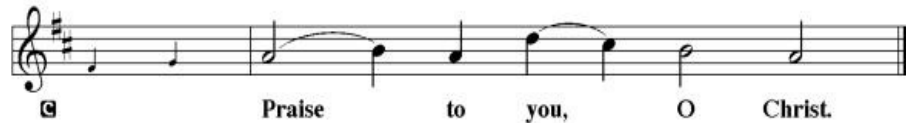
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>14</sup>"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your

master.’ <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



**SERMON** Pastor Tom Jacobson

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*The people may be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Lord of Light"* Green Book 405

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*The people stand.*

**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.**

**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.*

*Grace Notes (10:30 only): "For the Beauty Of the Earth"*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*The people stand.*

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

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. 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

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

## THE PREFACE

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

## THE SANCTUS

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

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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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, 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 776, 746, 740*

## 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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



*Sending*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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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

*"When Peace, Like a River"*

Green Book 346

## 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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www.gracethornville.org  
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. 23 Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100

Nov. 25 Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR CHRIST THE KING (NOVEMBER 26)**

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Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Ephesians 1:15-23

Psalms 95:1-7  
Matthew 25:31-46

