

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Thornville, Ohio



**THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 23, 2023 | 8:00 and 10:30am

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**VISITORS**

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.

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**OUR WORSHIP**

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.

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**PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

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!

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*PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION*

*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: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.  
- Ephesians 2:19 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: 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** "O God of Mercy, God of Light" Green Book 425

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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-cious 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.

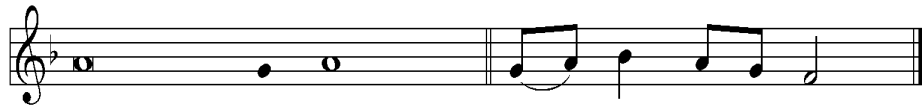
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

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

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☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

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*Isaiah 44:6-8*

L: A reading from Isaiah.

*Who is like God? Who is the very first and the very last? God challenges all others who claim to be gods.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

<sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

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*Psalm 86:11-17*

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



<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;\*  
knit my heart to you that I may | fear your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,\*  
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your | love toward me;\* you have delivered me from the  
neth- | ermost pit.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent  
men | seeks my life;\* they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,\*  
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mer- | cy upon me;\* give your strength to your  
servant; and save the child | of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and | be  
ashamed;\* because you, O Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.

### THE SECOND LESSON

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*Romans 8:12-25*

L: A reading from Romans.

*All creation is groaning for liberty. So do we. We, too, have the firstfruits of the Spirit within us.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by

the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43*

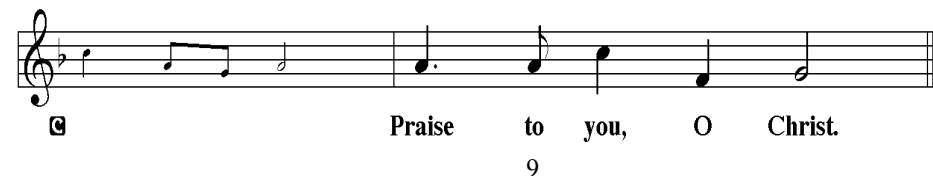
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Come, You Thankful People, Come" Green Book 407

*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.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*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 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

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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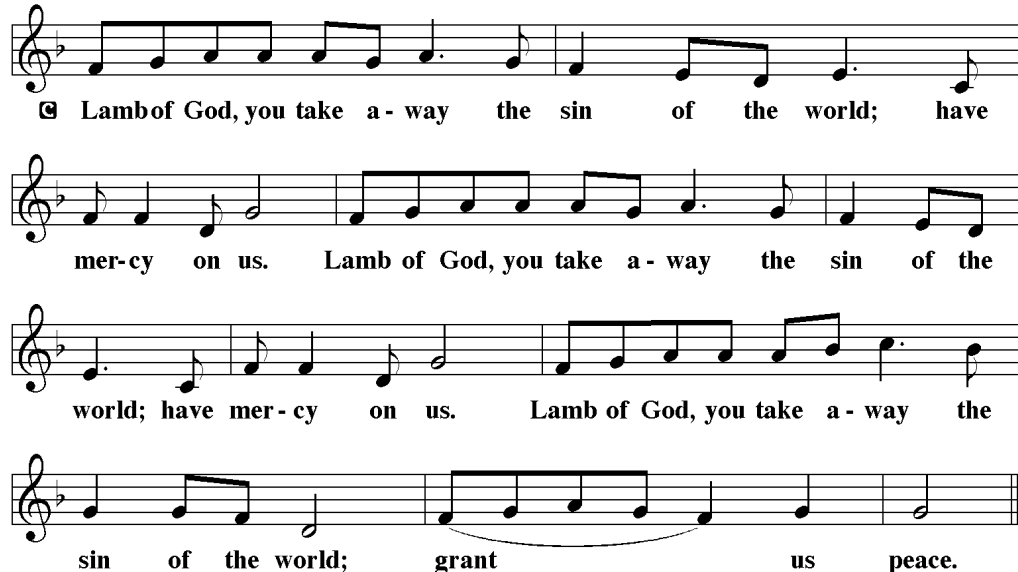
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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 197, 200, 210*

## 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 - jice 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: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

## SENDING HYMN

*"This Is My Father's World"*

Green Book 554

## 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



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:

July 23 Birgitta of Sweden, 1373

July 25 St James The Elder, Apostle

July 28 Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schütz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759; musicians

July 29 Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany  
Olaf; King of Norway, martyr, 1030

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 9 PENTECOST (JULY 30)**

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1 Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:26-39

Psalms 119:129-136

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52