



July 26, 2020

**Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado**  
Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

## ***Welcome to Grace!***

*We are glad you are joining us online for this worship service. Our liturgy is printed in this worship folder so that you can follow along on [Zoom with the live Worship Service](#) or afterward on [the Grace Boulder website](#).*

*In response to Christ's boundless love for all, members of Grace share that love by inviting all – regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation – to come and participate in the life of Grace.*

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

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### **PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE**

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Presiding Minister	Pastor Matthew Weber
Assisting Minister	Carol Codrescu
Lector	Katherine Alexander
Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
Special Music	Josh and Katherine DeVane
Pandemic Worship Cantors	Josh and Katherine DeVane
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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*Lessons and propers for this day are reprinted from Words for Worship 2019, Year C ©2018 Augsburg Fortress.*

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### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1001 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder CO 80302 Phone 303.442.1883 Fax 303.442.4403

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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**[www.graceboulder.org](http://www.graceboulder.org) | [office@graceboulder.org](mailto:office@graceboulder.org)  
Pastor: [matthew@graceboulder.org](mailto:matthew@graceboulder.org)**

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## GATHERING

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### MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit,  
lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

ELW 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

## GREETING

The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*



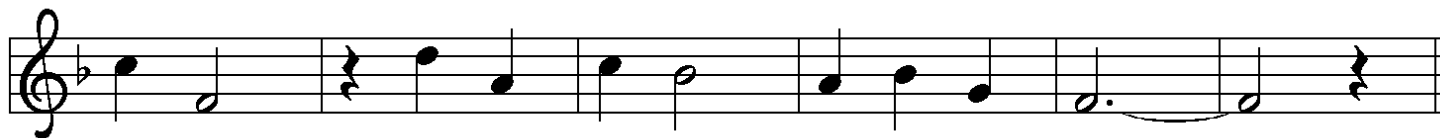
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

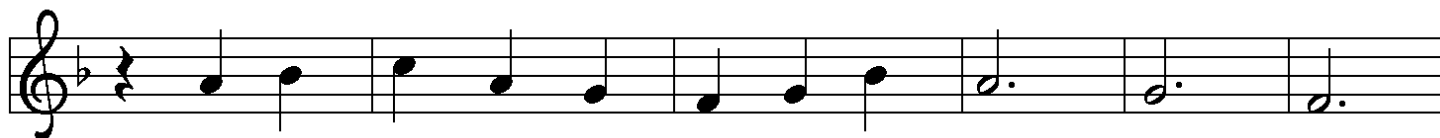


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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## WORD

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### FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

<sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

<sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

- <sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- <sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.
- <sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- <sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**
- <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.
- <sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and



those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

<sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died,

yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

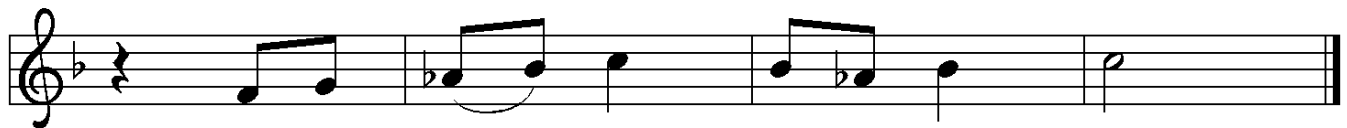
Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Nothing in | all cre-ation | will separate us from the | Love of God.

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

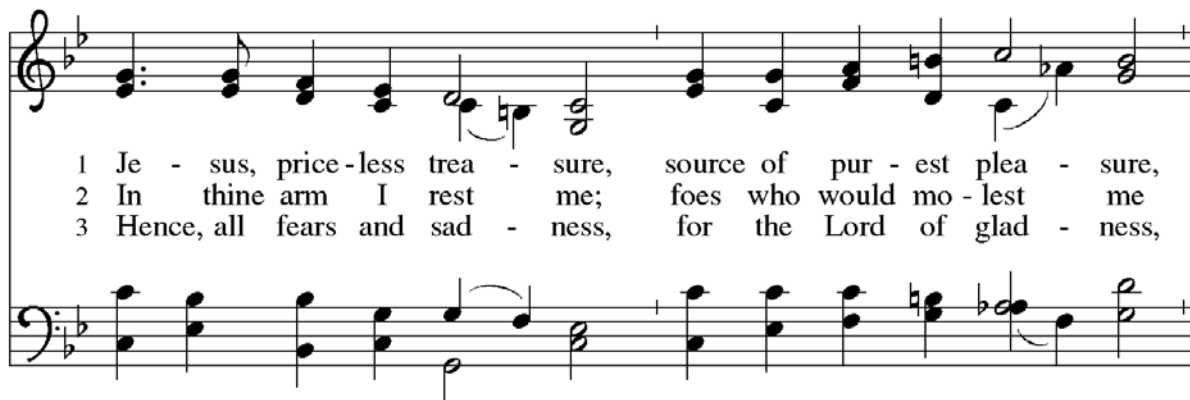
<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.

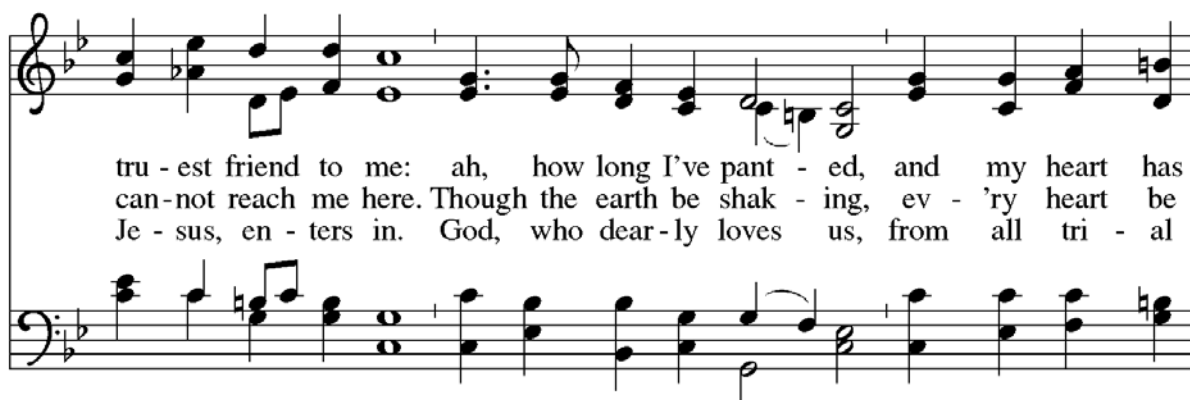
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Pastor Matthew Weber



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has  
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be  
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;  
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;  
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.  
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident in your care, O God, and helped by your Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace, especially as your world strives to heal and recover from our current pandemic reality. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing for all those who are sick and in any kind of need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this old place and new time. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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## MEAL

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*Your stewardship at Grace is more important now than ever. Without in-person Worship Services where offerings are collected, we hope that you will take the extra time to fulfill your pledges. Please visit the [Grace Boulder Stewardship page](#) to learn more.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Katherine DeVane, alto  
Josh DeVane, tenor*

## OFFERTORY

*Create In Me*

ELW 188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread  
one bread, one cup:  
these are signs of your abundant grace  
uniting us as one in You.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

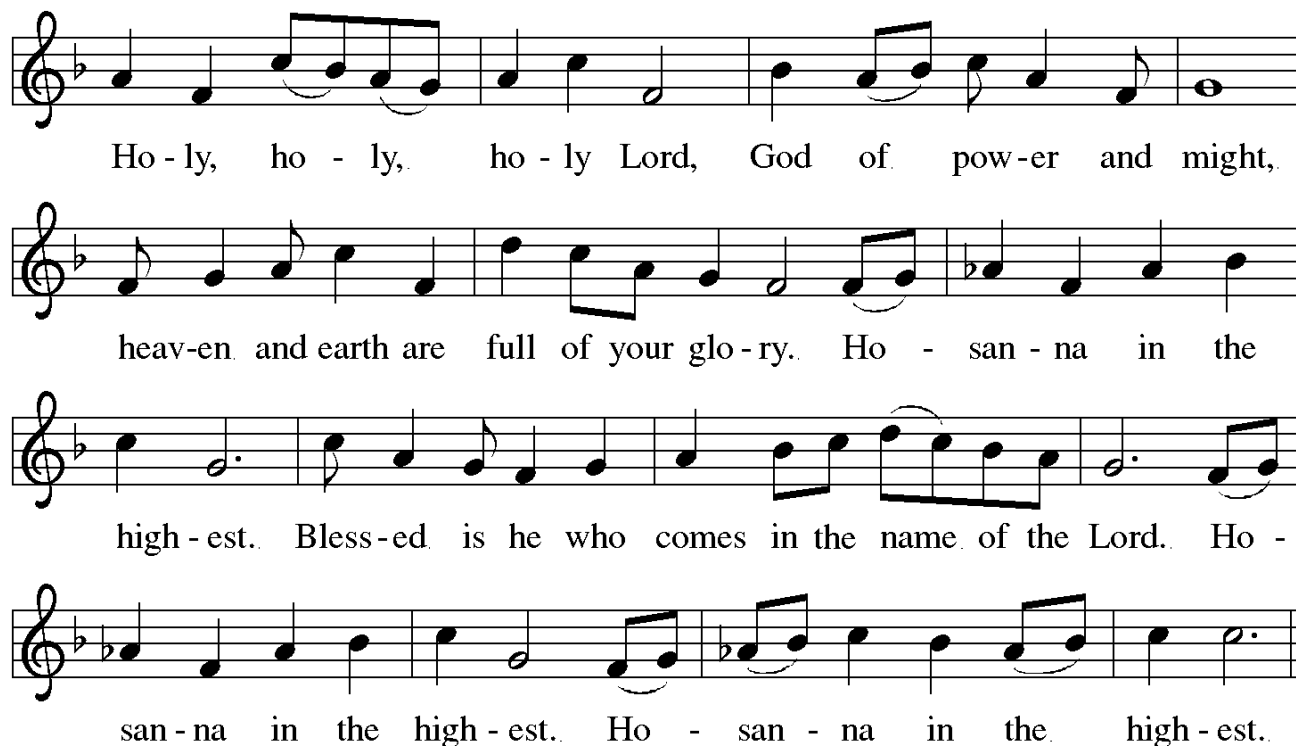
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; gave thanks, he gave it to them saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery or our faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**



Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration,  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son  
and be filled with your life and goodness.

To you O God be all honor and glory today and always.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your mercy and teach us to pray:

**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.**



## **DISTRIBUTION**

*This is the table of God. We invite all who are hungry for God's presence in their lives to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table.*

*Those of you who are with others in your home, please serve one another saying, "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you."*

*Those of you who are watching by yourself, I invite you to wait until I say those words to you before you eat the bread and drink the wine.*

*If you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness.*

*Further, those of you who might not receive communion for whatever reason, please recognize and understand that God's forgiveness and mercy and love are fully and completely provided to you in ways additional to Holy Communion.*

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace. **Amen.**

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## SENDING

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### **PRAYER**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your unifying love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

### **FAREWELL AND GODSPEED**

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God for the blessing that you have bestowed on this congregation through Katherine and Josh.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who enhance worship and your creation through the gift of music.

Today especially, we give you thanks for Katherine and Josh for the ways in which you have blessed us through them and for the ways you have blessed them through this community.

As they leave this congregation  
we ask you to continue to bless them  
as they establish new rituals and new communities  
in the new place where they will be living.

Grant us faith to trust in you  
and to continue your blessings to all of us  
known in the gift of music;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Eternal God, we thank you for Josh and Katherine. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

A Gaelic Blessing

*text adapted from an ancient Gaelic rune*

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

### **Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, August 2**

*Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21*



## GRACE NOTES

a guide to parish life at Grace

July 26, 2020

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*We pray **for those who are ill:** Carol Painter, Bob Stec (former co-worker of Tom Lawson fighting COVID19), Allan Wolfe, Jacquie Poe (friend of Sandi Stahl); **those undergoing treatment:** Tom Graziano (friend of Tom Lawson), Ron Lundal (family friend of the Lawsons), John Gamble, Patrick Fallin (friend of Hiroko Akima), Coral Fay MosbØ (sister of Karen O'Loughlin), Paul Herzegh (friend of the Zabels), Elizabeth Farr, Deena Steward (daughter-in-law of the Stewards), Jan Adams (friend of Sandi Stahl), Cheryl Fenske Prudic (niece of the Stewards), Mary Dorsett (former member of Grace); **hope and healing:** friends and family of Richard Raedeke grieving his death July 12, Dave Linder (friend of Tom Lawson), Blaine Gorrell (great-grand nephew of Donna Rohde preparing for surgery in September), John and Nelda Gamble (grieving the death of their friend Arline Fernandez last month), Tom Kresler (friend of Tom Lawson recovery from surgery), Stan and Anne Peterson grieving the death of their brother-in law Robert Villier, Christian Mueller (grandson of Anne and Stan Peterson working on the COVID19 ward at St. Joseph's hospital), Diana Anderson (former Grace member), Barry Miller (friend of the Gambles now in Hospice Care), Rodney McLennon (friend of the Zabels), Beaudin Larabee (friend of the Zabels), Ray Haux (former Grace member now in Hospice care), Mieko Akima, Myrna Montgomery (grandmother of LCM student Arin Moriarty), Mark Woods (friend of Deb Valerio), Ruth VanderMinden, Pamela Kast (sister-in-law of Patty's sister), Rick Beckman (brother of Kim).*

**The designated offering for July is: [Emergency Family Assistance Association \(EFAA\)](#).** Since 1918, EFAA has been a locally operated community safety net for families in times of need. Throughout EFAA's 100 year plus history, the organization has helped tens of thousands of families get back on their feet, and been supported by tens of thousands of donors and volunteers dedicated to EFAA's mission.

EFAA helps those in our community whose immediate needs for food, shelter and other basic necessities cannot be adequately met by other means, and supports their efforts toward financial stability or self-sufficiency. As Boulder's Family Resource Center, they are dedicated to helping members of our community meet their immediate needs and springboard out of poverty.

Thanks to the **Grace Foundation**, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2020, up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "PiM: EFAA" to the memo line.

### **Wednesday Evening Prayer Services Added**

Sunday morning liturgies can't be in-person for now. So we're adding an evening prayer liturgy to our schedule at Grace. Every other Wednesday evening we'll meet at 5:30 pm in the courtyard for a service of instrumental music, prayer, scripture, and silence. The first of these services will happen on Wednesday, July 29.

Because there's only so much space in the courtyard, and because we have to make sure there's enough room for households to remain at least six feet apart from each other, you'll have to [sign up here](#) ahead of time. We'll also provide a link for people to participate remotely from home.

Bishop Gonia has been talking about what the Church is becoming in response to the world around us. This is one way that Grace Lutheran is experimenting with being a faithful community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. So bring your lawn chairs/water/bug spray/sunscreen, wear a mask, and come for a Wednesday Evening Prayer liturgy. ([But sign up first!](#))



## **A Note from Pastor Matthew**

I don't know if you've noticed, but things are different these days. Actually, that's not true. Things are different, and I betcha that you have noticed.

I've been thinking some about how things are different, and more about how our society will change as a result. Will there be lasting change in the way we drive? In the way we shop? In the way we eat at restaurants? And specific to Christianity, will there be lasting change in the way we do faith together?

The background to my wondering about our faith is the destruction of the second Temple in A.D. 70. For a couple hundred years before that, Pharisaic Judaism had been developing (in contrast with and in opposition to the Sadducees). The Sadducees' faith was centered in and focused on worship at the Temple. The faith of the Pharisees, though, was focused more on rituals and traditions that happened in the home. So when the Temple was destroyed, all of a sudden the world had changed in a way that the Pharisees' faith was better able to thrive. It was obviously a lasting change, since (as you might know) modern day Rabbinic Judaism is a direct descendant of Pharisaic Judaism. In fact, the Rabbi who did a presentation to one of my seminary classes described himself as a Pharisee.

There was a significant disruption in Jewish life when the Temple was destroyed. It seems like COVID-19 is causing a significant disruption in our life today. So I wonder how the world will change.

I'm not encouraging us to become Pharisees. But I do wonder whether this disruption will cause our faith practices to become more home-based instead of church-building-based during this time while we're pandemic-ing. From an academic perspective, I'm simply curious about that. From a faith perspective, though, I wonder if it isn't a good idea for us to be more proactive about how it is that we practice our faith in our homes (that's one of the reasons I'm really curious to see your home altars).

In fact, I think what I'll do is to suggest some things for y'all to try. Then you can report back to me about your experience. How about we start with beginning and/or ending each day with Luther's morning prayer or Luther's evening prayer (some of you might remembers these from the Small Catechism):

Morning Prayer: I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer: I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me tonight. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

I'm curious to hear what your reactions are to this practice.

As you give that a try, remember to be well, wash your hands, and keep on trusting in Jesus.

~ pr. m

## Rooted in Grace

**Lectionary Bible Study** continues on Wednesday, July 29 at 10:30 am [via Zoom](#). The study focuses on the lectionary texts for the next Sunday's worship, taking a deeper dive than is possible within the constraints of the service. Join us for spirited discussion and fellowship time!

The readings for Sunday, August 2, 2020 are:

- **Isaiah 55:1-5** *Eat and drink that which truly satisfies*
- **Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21** *You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)*
- **Romans 9:1-5** *The glory of God's people Israel*
- **Matthew 14:13-21** *Christ feeding five thousand*

If you would like to be placed on the distribution list, [please contact Amy](#) in the Grace office.

A Note from Anne Peterson regarding **Summer Grace Boulder Special Music**: Normally I would be putting a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board and making announcements during the service asking folks to sign up for special music in the summer. However, these are not normal times. As our virtual lead singer choir begins its summer hiatus, we still need volunteers to provide music during the anthem slot. Here's how it will happen:

1. Michael has provided [this sign up sheet](#), and our talented Grace musicians (YOU!) with their family and friends can now choose their Sundays.
2. Rather than perform live on Sunday morning, you can come to the church on Saturday to record your music. Other times can be arranged if necessary. Appropriate measures, especially distancing, will be taken to ensure your safety.

3. If you need an accompanist, contact [Boyd Hamilton](#) to get the music to him. If your accompaniment is particularly difficult, he would appreciate two weeks notice. For any other questions and to schedule your recording, contact [Michael Hoffman](#).

4. The minimum of music to provide is a vocal or instrumental piece to take the place of the choir anthem (2-5 minutes in length). You can also provide a prelude and/or postlude if you desire.

5. [Join the service via Zoom on Sunday morning](#). You've become a Grace recording star!

Thank you all, and I look forward to our special summer music!

### **Reaching Out in Christ's Love**

Thank you for your donations of blank greeting cards\* for the inmates of [New Beginnings](#). Your cards allow the women to communicate with loved ones.

Remember [Harvest of Hope](#) food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations\* make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

*\* We are working on a new system to collect your generous donations during this time. Stay tuned!*

## **This Week at Grace**

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### Sunday, July 26

9:30-11:30 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

**10 am Worship Service via Zoom**

### Monday, July 20

12-2:30 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Tuesday, July 21

12-2:30 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Wednesday, July 22

**10:30-11:30 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom**

12-1 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom

12-2:30 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

**5:30 pm Worship Service NEW!**

**via Zoom or in-person in the Grace Courtyard ([sign up required](#))**

### Thursday, July 23

12-2:30 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Friday, July 24

12-2:30 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Saturday, July 25

*Worship Packet Deliveries*

### Sunday, July 26

9:30-11:30 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

**10 am Worship Service via Zoom**