



September 17, 2023  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
**Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado**  
Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

## *Welcome to Grace!*

+

In response to Christ's boundless love, 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. We are glad you are joining us for this worship service!

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

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

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Presiding Minister	Matthew Weber
Assisting Minister	Carol Codrescu
Lector	Lan Zeckser
Pianist & Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Choir Director	Anne Peterson
Lead Singers	Melissa Lubecke, soprano Melody English, alto Simon Daum, tenor Sebastian Schmidt, bass
Altar Guild	Donna Rohde
Ushers	Tom Lawson & Mihail Codrescu
Financial Counters	Greg Niesen & Nan Schwiesow
Grounds Cleanup	Ron Schwiesow
Digital Worship Coordinator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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## GATHERING

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### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,  
Jesus † who bears the cross,  
Holy Spirit who makes our joy complete.

***Amen.***

Let us approach God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

***you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.***

***We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.***

***We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.***

***For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.***

***For the unjust demands we place on others***

***and your creation, forgive us.***

***For the ways we turn away***

***from you and our neighbor, forgive us.***

***Lead us back to you and lead us to follow your path;***

***in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.***

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

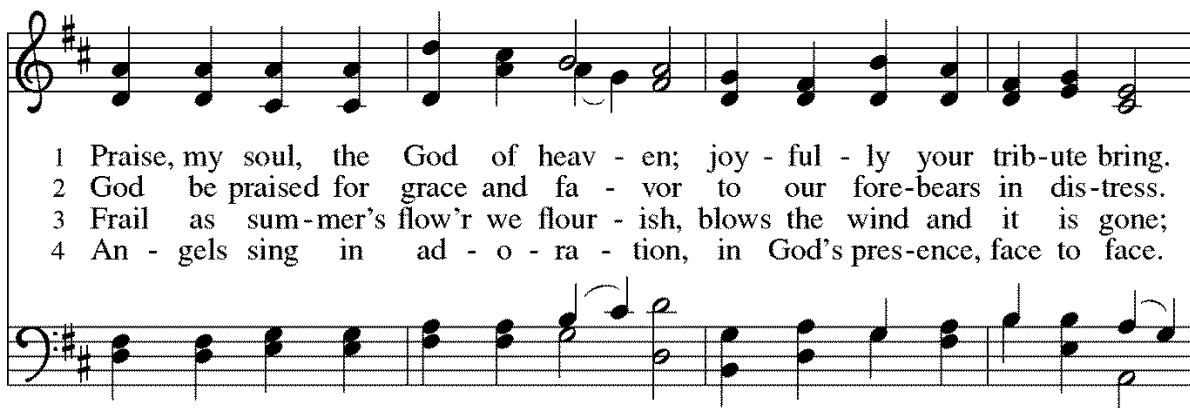
God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

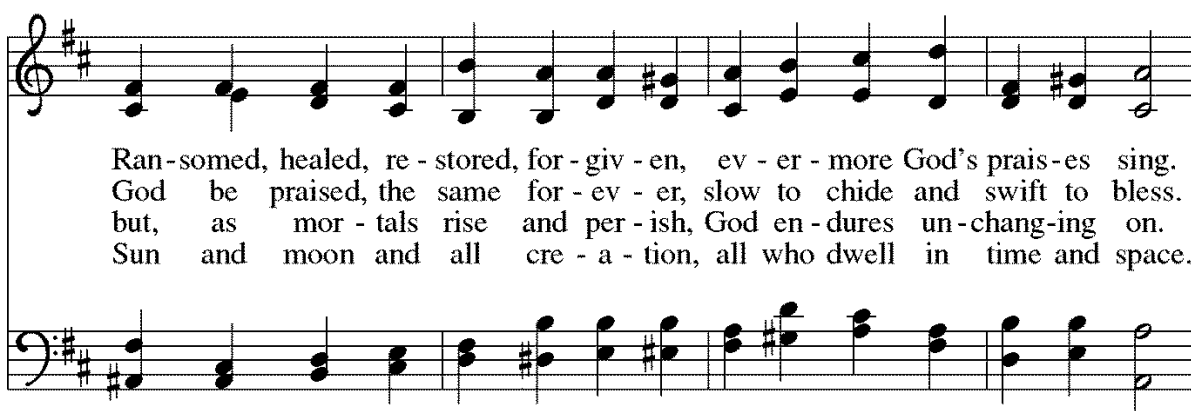
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

***Amen.***

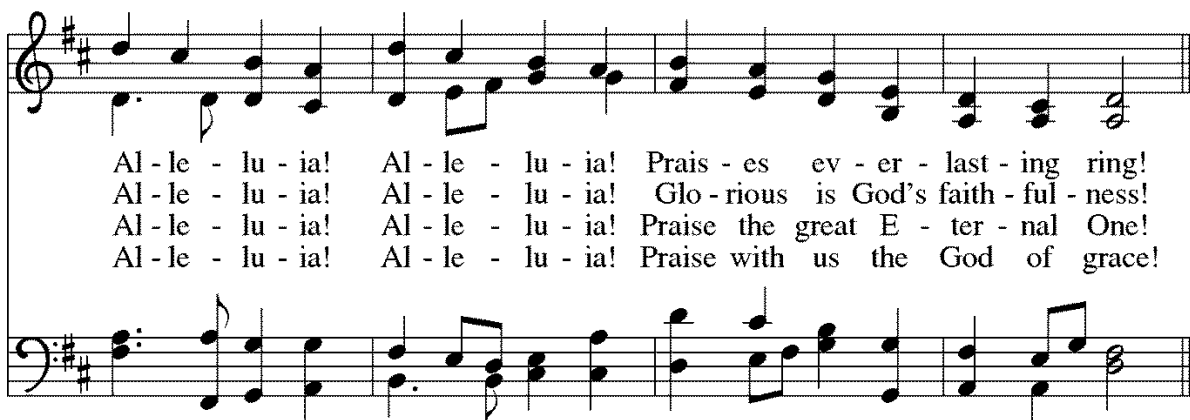
# GATHERING HYMN "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" ELW 864



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.  
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.  
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.  
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

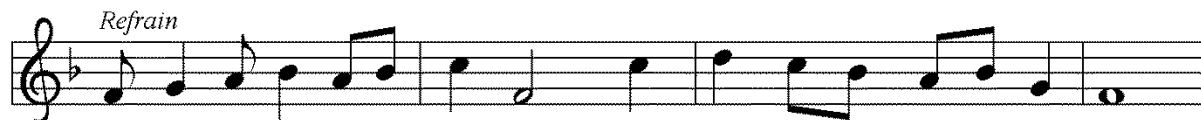
Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005  
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

## REETING

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

*And also with you.*

## GLORIA



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



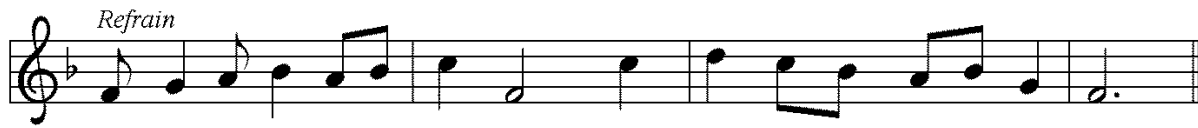
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. O Lord God,  
*merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.  
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you,  
that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.*

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## WORD

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### **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

***Thanks be to God!***

## PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—*

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>*who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;*

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>*O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.*

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>*LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;*

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>*You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.*

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>*As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.*

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.



## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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*

Bless the Lord, oh my soul | and forget not all God's benefits

## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of

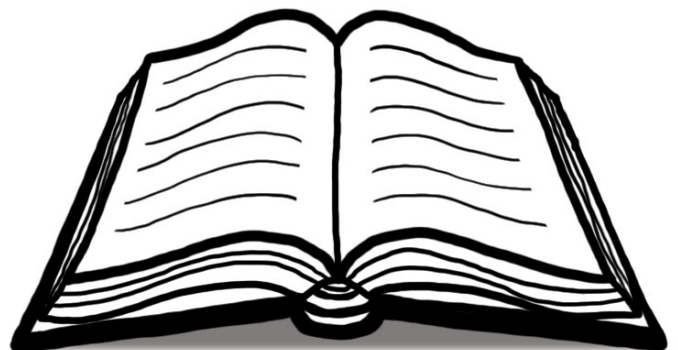
pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Matthew Weber





1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.  
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

## APOSTLES' CREED

We confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

*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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world. Bless the work of diverse congregations, we all uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops so that those who are hungry may be fed. Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise in harm's way. Protect all we love who are in need, especially those we name before you now ... Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

*receive our prayer.*

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

*Amen.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

*And also with you.*

**ANTHEM**    “Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”    Mikail M. Ippolitof-Ivanof

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## **MEAL**

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## **OFFERING**

*Your stewardship at Grace is more important now than ever. We hope that you will take the extra time to give.*

# OFFERTORY

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,

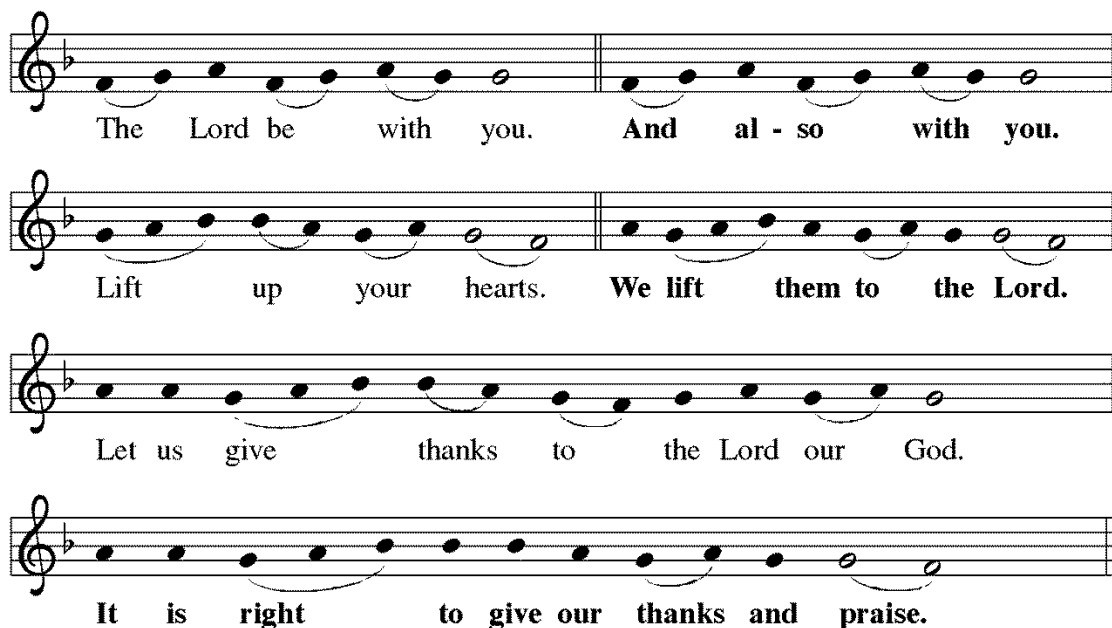
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray. God of power, God of plenty,  
*all things belong to you.*  
*We bring your gifts to the table,*  
*that all might be fed.*  
*Form us into the body of your Son,*  
*Jesus Christ, our Savior.*  
*Amen.*

## 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.

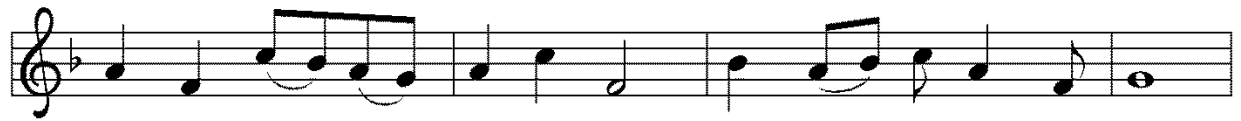
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'.

## PROPER PREFACE

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

# SANCTUS



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.



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. ... with every breath.

*We praise you, O God.*

Generations ... into the future.

*We bless you, O God.*

We give you thanks ... with us now.

*We thank you, O God.*

In the night ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: ... in your church, without end.

*Amen.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*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

Jesus invites us to this table.

Come, eat and live.

*Thanks be to God!*

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

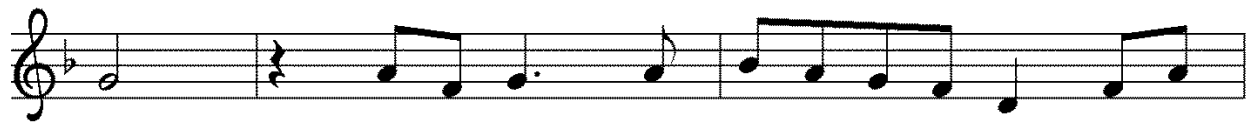
*For those who are not in the sanctuary: if you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God's grace is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness.*

*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.*

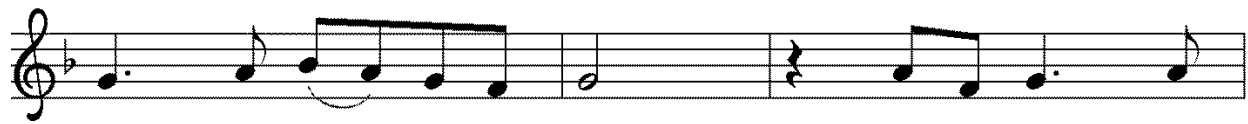
## **AGNUS DEI**



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.

COMMUNION “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” ELW 494

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,  
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,  
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,  
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.  
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895  
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

*Amen.*

## **PRAYER**

Let us Pray.

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

*Amen.*

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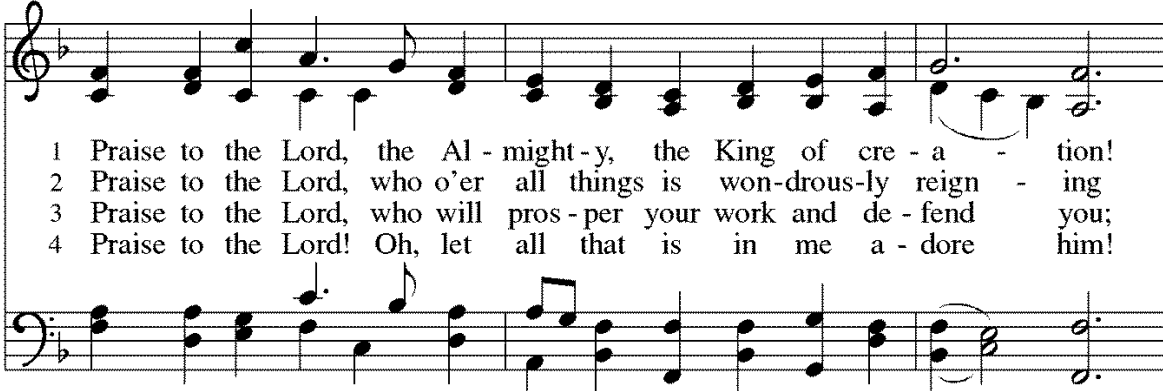
## **SENDING**

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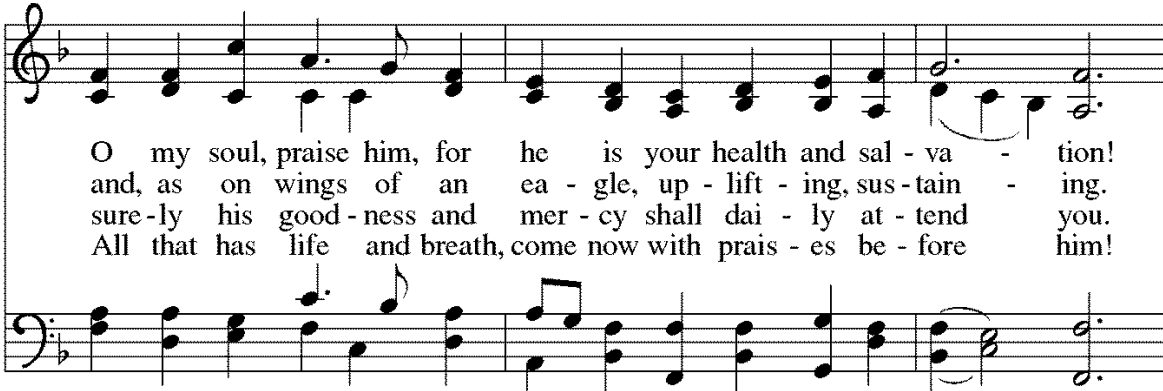
## **BENEDICTION**

The God of grace,  
Jesus Christ ☩ name above all names,  
and Holy Spirit who abides within and throughout the world,  
bless you now and forever.

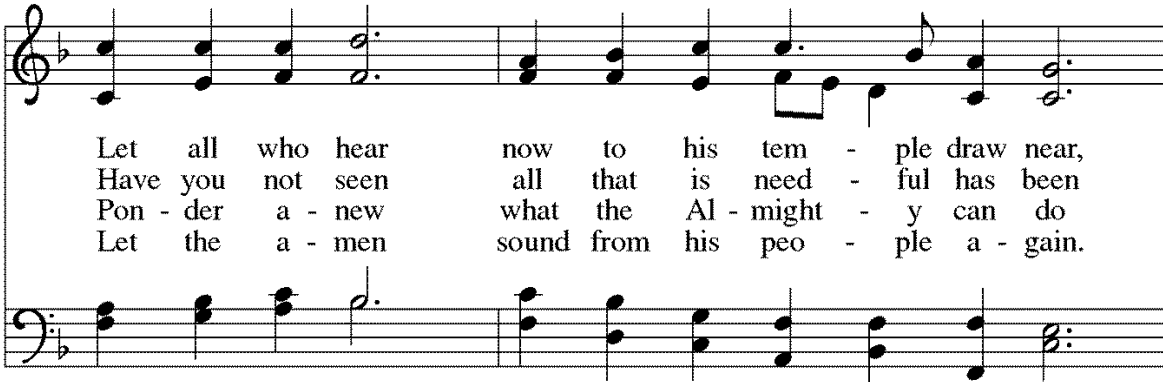
*Amen.*



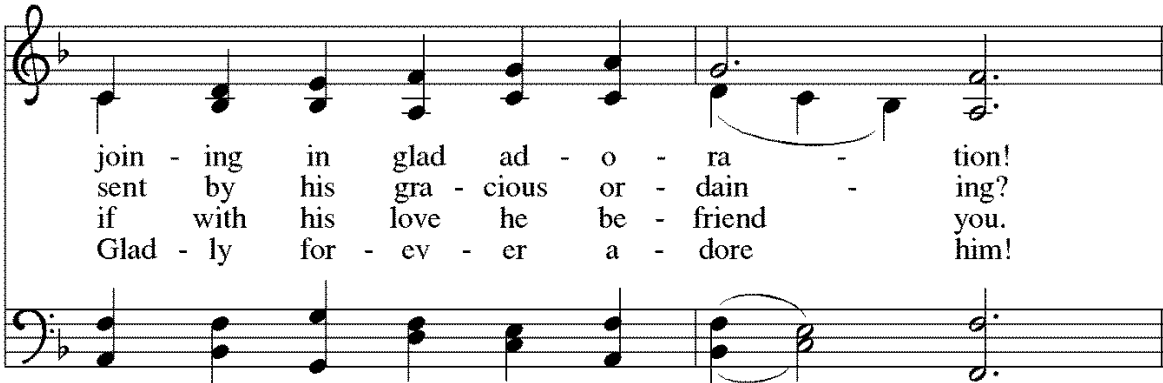
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Holy Spirit is alive in us.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, September 24**

*Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16*



## GRACE NOTES

a guide to parish life at Grace

September 17, 2023

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### We pray for **those undergoing treatment:**

- Paul Herzegh (Mary and Charley Zabel's friend) facing a new cancer diagnosis
- Marilyn Engelbrecht (Sandi Stahl's friend) receiving treatment for cancer
- Petra Landfester (fighting breast cancer)
- Tony Pappas (John Laitinen's friend)
- Marsha Herrmann (Grace Lutheran Church's friend) diagnosed with cancer
- Margurite DuPont (Tom Dozier's childhood friend) fighting metastatic breast cancer
- Karen O'Loughlin's Godchild
- Mary Dorsett (former Grace member)
- Sam Anderson (Lorne & Mikki Matheson's friend)
- Robert Reish (Sandi Stahl's friend)

### We pray for **those grieving the death of:**

- Julie Stewart (Amy McIntosh's mom)

### We pray for **hope and healing for:**

- Janix, Bob, and Jay Hogle (Patty Meyers friends)
- John Laitinen
- Richard Zyra (Tom Dozier's cousin) diagnosed with palate cancer
- Michelle Kammerman (Hiroko Akima's friend) recovering from brain surgery
- Coqui Stetson (John Laitinen's daughter) recovering from a car accident
- Emmanuel Rusaka
- Betsey (Patty Meyers' neighbor) recovering from brain surgery
- Jerry Mercier (Patty Meyers' cousin)
- Susan Hull (Patty Meyers' friend) with ALS and other concerns
- Avis Fjestad (Anne Peterson's sister-in-law)
- Carl and Jan Stubenrauch
- Bob Meyers
- Allan Wolfe
- Pete Tafoya
- Rich Harris (John Laitinen's cousin)

## **Grace Partner in Ministry**

The designated Partner in Ministry (PiM) offering for September 2023 is **Rise Against Suicide**. September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month!

Rise Against Suicide is a Boulder County nonprofit agency whose mission is to help youth who are at risk of suicide by removing the financial and social barriers to treatment, enabling them to find hope and healing. Rise Against Suicide receives referrals from schools and mental health professionals and connects the referred young people to qualified private therapists. The work they do saves people's lives.

Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2023 up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "PiM: Rise" to the memo line. You may place checks in the mail slot at Grace, send through the US mail, or use our electronic giving option Simply Giving on the Grace website. Thank you for your generosity!

## Rooted in Grace

Please **save the date for Oktoberfest**: Sunday, October 1, 2023, after worship. Sign up is available in the narthex on the bulletin board.



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Sunday morning schedule: **Adult Sunday School starts at 8:45 am**, and **worship begins at 10:00 am**.

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**Lectionary Bible Study** continues on Wednesday, September 20, at 11:00 am. 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, September 24, 2023, are:

- **Jonah 3:10--4:11** *God's concern for the city of Nineveh*
- **Psalms 145:1-8** *The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*
- **Philippians 1:21-30** *Standing firm in the gospel*
- **Matthew 20:1-16** *The parable of the vineyard workers*

As of May 11, 2023, the CDC declared the **end to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**.

The Boulder County COVID rate is currently low, which has been consistently true for months. While there has been a recent uptick of COVID cases, the numbers remain relatively low.

At Grace, we are always concerned for each others' safety, well-being, and comfort - we want to help one another stay as safe and healthy as possible. We do not ask anyone to wear a mask at worship; still, anyone is welcome to wear a mask at any time. During Sunday morning worship, the Pastor and Assisting Minister have been wearing, and will likely continue to wear, masks while serving Holy Communion - but not during the rest of the liturgy. We will continue to keep the air filters running during worship, and will have disposable masks available for anyone who wants one.

Naturally, if any of the transmission or infection data change significantly, we will revisit these expectations. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this, please talk with Pr. Matthew.

## **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.

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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.

## **This Week at Grace**

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### Sunday, September 17

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Hall**
- 10 am Sunday Service, Sanctuary + via Zoom**
- 11:30 am Grace Church Council Meeting, Fellowship**
- 3-7 pm Empathy Theater Productions Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

### Monday, September 18

- 7-8 pm NA, Fellowship Hall
- 7-8 pm NarAnon, Library

### Tuesday, September 19

- 5-9 pm Empathy Theater Productions Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, September 20

- 11 am Lectionary Bible Study, via Zoom**
- 5-9 pm Empathy Theater Productions Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
- 7:15-9 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### Thursday, September 21: NO THIRD THURSDAY THEOLOGY

- 9 am-12 pm Quilters, Fellowship Hall**
- 5-9 pm Empathy Theater Productions Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

### Friday, September 22

- 11 am-1 pm Empathy Theater Weekly Production Meeting, Library
- 6-7 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 8-9 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, September 23

- 9 am-12 pm Organist Practice, Sanctuary
- 2-6 pm Empathy Theater Productions Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, September 24

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Hall**
- 10 am Sunday Service, Sanctuary + via Zoom**

## Grace Church Staff

Rev. Matthew Weber.....Pastor  
Michael Hoffman .....Director of Music  
Boyd Hamilton .....Pianist & Organist  
Amy Stewart McIntosh .....Office Administrator  
Jody R..... Financial Administrator  
Rayo Rodriguez..... Custodian



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### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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