## The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Setting: ELW 7

August 10, 2025 9:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church Wenatchee, WA



## Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Holy Communion: We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!

If you are worshipping with children: Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options, especially for our young worshipers. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers. Quiet toys are located just outside the back door of the sanctuary for young children and caregivers. Most Sundays we have nursery staff available to help watch the children in that space. You are also welcome to use the quiet area under the balcony, beside the stained-glass window.

**Our Mission Statement:** "To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



#### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

#### + + + GATHERING + + +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### WELCOME AND KIDS' TALK

**PRELUDE** 

What a Beautiful Name/He Keeps Me Singing

arr. Mary McDonald

Please stand as you are able.

#### **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 the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

#### Amen.

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.

#### Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\oplus$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.** 

#### **GATHERING SONG**

## ELW #831, The God of Abraham Praise Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



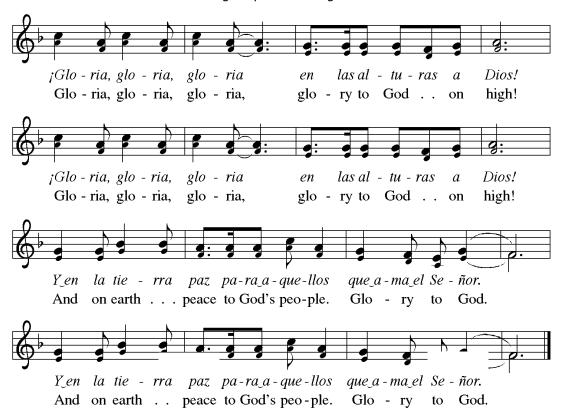
Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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#### **GREETING**

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.** 

## Glory to God Sing in Spanish or English.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

A reading from Genesis

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 33**



## SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

## A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

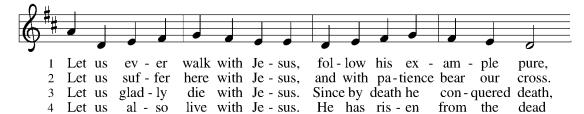
#### **SERMON**



Please stand as you are able.

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## ELW #802, Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.





through a world that would de-ceive us and to sin our spir-its lure. Joy will fol-low all our sad-ness; where he is there is no loss. he will free us from de-struc-tion, give to us im-mor-tal breath. that to life we may a-wak-en. Je-sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot-steps tread-ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove, Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy: Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin; we are your own liv - ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, all dis-com-forts that an - noy and the grave that shuts us in in your pres-ence con-stant-ly,

let us do our Sav-ior's bid-ding. shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. shall but prove the gate of heav-en. liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know. Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high. Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt. Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our Christian 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 to the dead.\*

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

#### After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+++MEAL+++

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

**OFFERING** 

**MUSICAL OFFERING** 

We Will Walk with God Intergenerational Choir

Traditional Swaziland, trans. & arr. John L. Bell

We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God. We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

Please stand as you are able.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

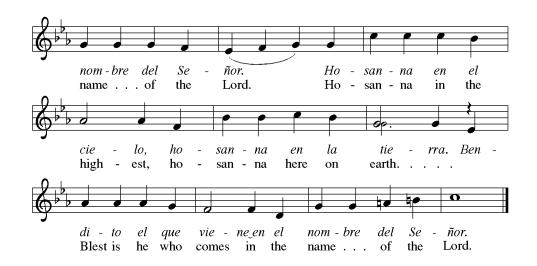
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Please be seated.

#### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

#### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**



#### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

# ELW #856, How Great Thou Art Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

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**MUSICAL OFFERING** 

Have No Fear, Little Flock

Michael Burkhardt

Please stand as you are able.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### + + + SENDING + + +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please be seated.

#### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\pm$  give you peace. **Amen.** 

#### **SENDING SONG**

ELW #831, The God of Abraham Praise Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



- 5 Though nature's strength decay, and earth and hell withstand, to Canaan's bounds I urge my way at your command.

  The wat'ry deep I pass, with Jesus in my view, and through the howling wilderness my way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see, with peace and plenty blest; a land of sacred liberty and endless rest.

  There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
- 7 Before the great Three-One the saints exulting stand and tell the wonders God has done through all their land. The list'ning spheres attend and swell the growing fame and sing the songs which never end, the wondrous name.
- 8 The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high.
  "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
  Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
  I join the heav'nly lays:
  to you be glory, might divine, and endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** 

Praeludium and Fuga in A Flat Major

J. K. F. Fischer

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## **Serving in Today's Worship**

Presiding Minister: Rev. James Aalgaard

Altar Guild & Lector: Tami Woolsey
Guitar: Krista Anderson
Tech: Chad DuLac

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A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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