

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Setting: ELW 6

September 7, 2025
10:30 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

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

+++ GATHERING +++

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

WELCOME AND KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Nancy M. Raabe

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, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW #521, *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



- 1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
- 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
- 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
- 4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. 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 - mighty God and Fa-ther,



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

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. 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.

Refrain

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

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

+++ **WORD** +++

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

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

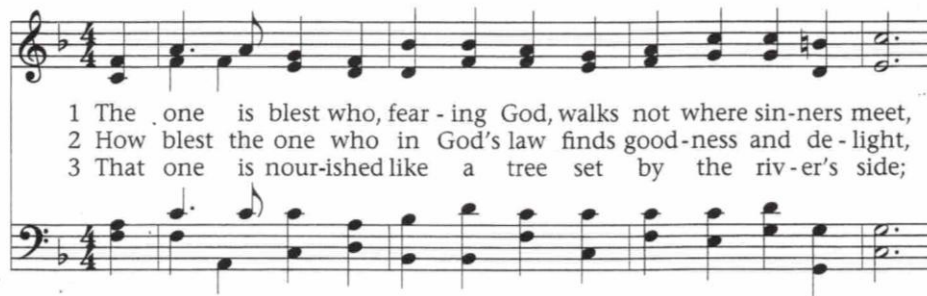
A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

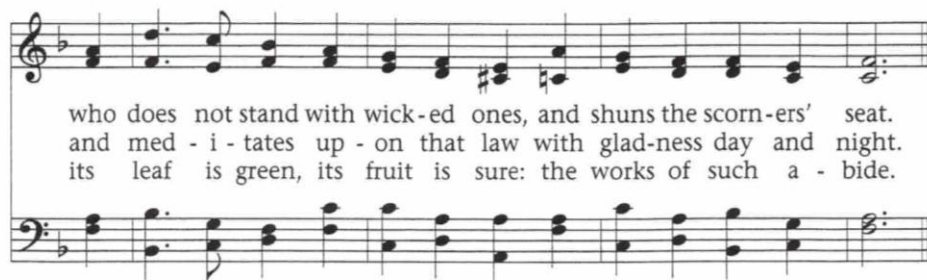
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1



1 The one is blest who, fear - ing God, walks not where sin - ners meet,
2 How blest the one who in God's law finds good - ness and de - light,
3 That one is nour - ished like a tree set by the riv - er's side;



who does not stand with wick - ed ones, and shuns the scorn - ers' seat.
and med - i - tates up - on that law with glad - ness day and night.
its leaf is green, its fruit is sure: the works of such a - bide.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 The wicked, like the driven chaff,
are swept from off the land;
they shall not gather with the just,
nor at the judgment stand. | 5 The LORD will guard the righteous well,
their way to God is known;
the way of sinners, far from God,
shall surely be o'erthrown. |
|--|---|

Words: *Psalter*, 1912, alt. 1985, P.D.
Music (WINCHESTER OLD 8.6.8.6): attr. George Kirbye, 1592, P.D.

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

A reading from Philemon.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

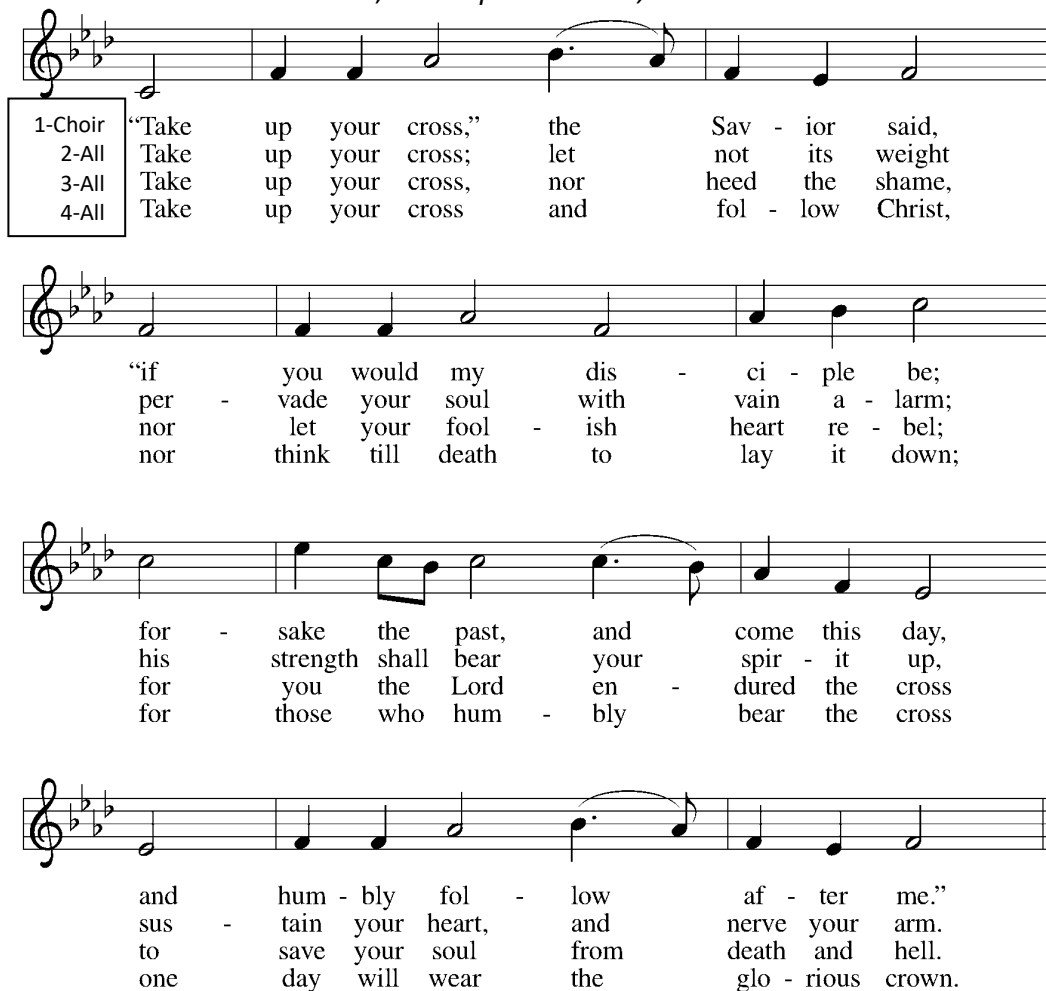
Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #667, *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*



1-Choir "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
2-All Take up your cross; let not its weight
3-All Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4-All Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
for you the Lord en - dured the cross
for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
to save your soul from death and hell.
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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

Kanisa Litajengwa
Voices of Grace

Kenyan worship chorus, tr. Jorge Lockward

(Translation) Oh, who will build the church now? With what will we build it? Oh, who will build the church now? We'll build it together! Oh, who will build the church now? Our mothers, our fathers! Oh, who will build the church now? The children, the grown-ups!

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

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

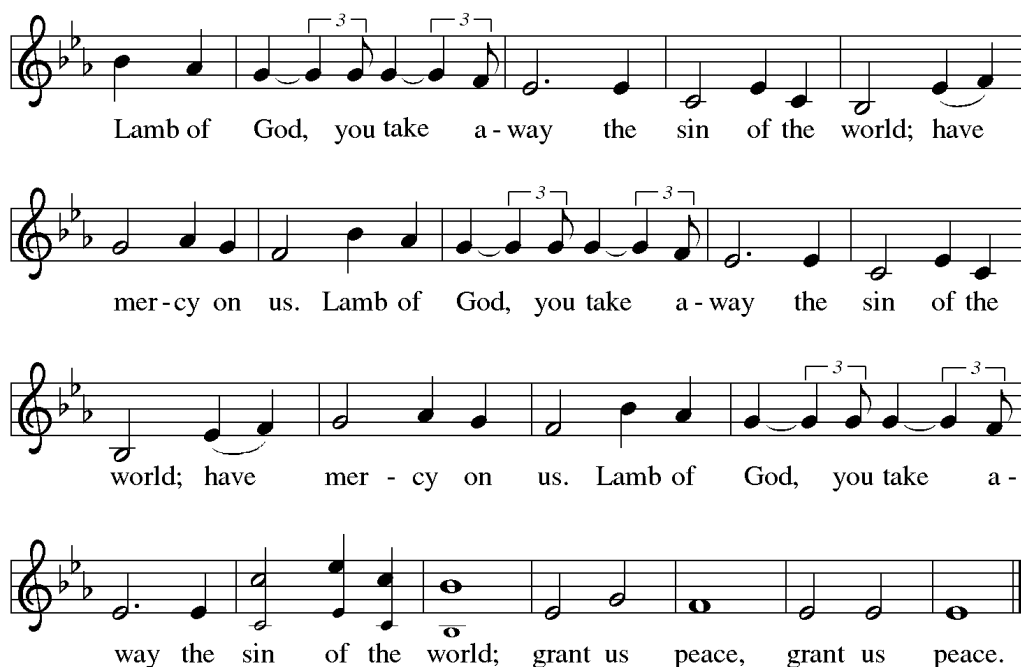
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW #810, *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

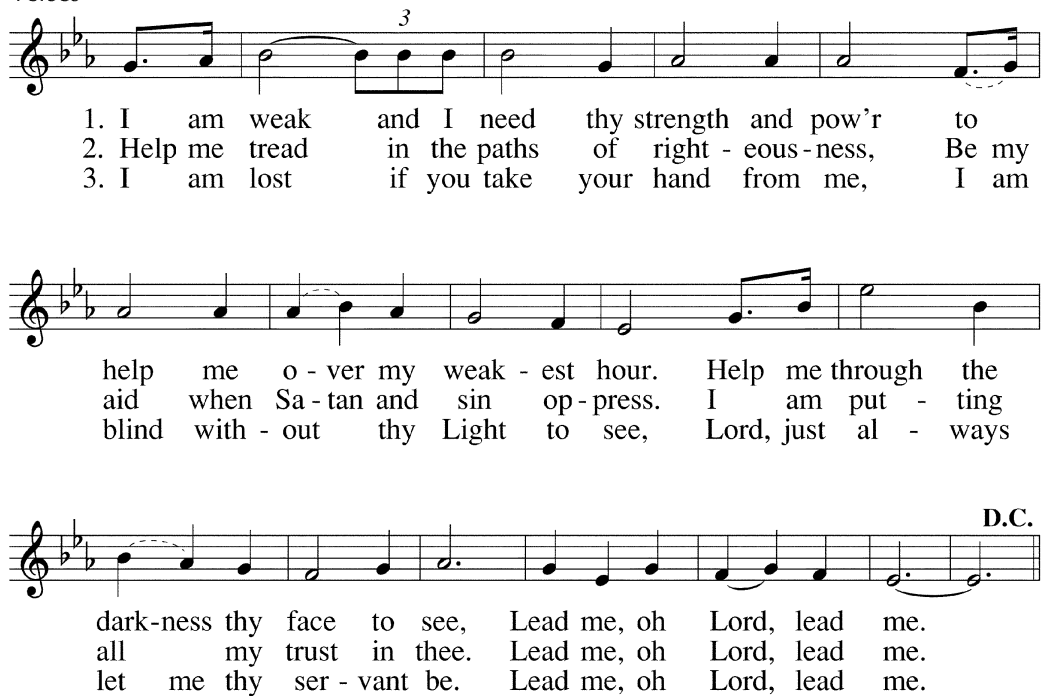
ELW #768, *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways
dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

+++ SENDING +++

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

Please be seated.

BLESSING FOR THE BEGINNING OF INTERNSHIP

Presentation

Leader: Today we celebrate the beginning of Laura Olsen's internship among us.

Dialogue

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

Response: Teach us your ways, O God.

Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot compare with wisdom.

Response: Teach us your ways, O God.

Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Response: Teach us your ways, O God.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for all of life and for our common calling as your servants; for the work of your church and for the ministries of word, service, and sacrament. We give you thanks for siblings in Christ whom you call to be leaders in your church and for all those who accompany these beloved ones as they are formed for rostered ministry.

Today, we especially ask you to bless Laura as this internship begins. Bless also this congregation, as together we accompany Laura on this journey of learning and formation. Through the witness and mission of our seminaries, faculty, staff, students, interns, supervisors, lay internship committees and internship sites, may the church join courageously in your work of compassion, mercy, justice, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Address and Questions

The Apostle Paul writes, "People have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them all" (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

I ask you, Laura, will you embrace this time of learning and formation, and will you seek God's guidance throughout this internship?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: People of God, will you accompany, encourage, and uphold Laura in prayer, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Blessing

Leader: Laura, we welcome you as our intern in this place. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer

Let us pray.

God of all grace and mercy, make this internship time rich with opportunities for growth. Empower us to nurture Laura with grace, compassion, and love. Grant us all your spirit and empower us to live and love with hope; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Adapted from ELW “Opening of an Academic Year” and “Installation of Lay Professional Staff.”

BLESSING OF SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

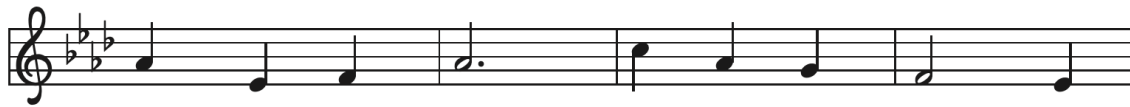
BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

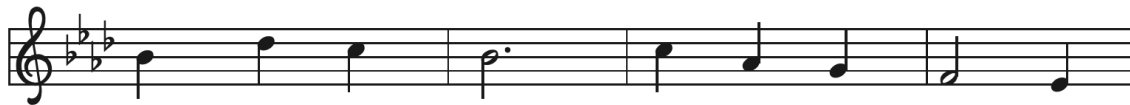
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

... continued on p. 16 ...



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue

Nicolo Porpora

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pastoral Intern:	Laura Olsen
Assisting Minister:	Phil Gregg
Acolyte:	Josh Gale
Lector:	Dee Ann Gregg
Altar Guild:	Rose Applegate
Communion Assistant:	Karen Zanol
Percussion:	Marlena La Paz, Mark & Vinny Lee
Tech:	Erik Olson

+ + +

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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Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt. P.D. Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848. P.D.

O Jesus, I Have Promised Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. P.D. Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693. P.D.

Rev. James Aalgaard
Deacon Ruth Anderson
Pastoral Intern
Jen Pearson-Gale
Ann Martinson-Bartlett

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