



September 20, 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.*

*Today, Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

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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	Hiroko Akima
Pandemic Worship Cantor	Emma Vawter
Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
<i>Soprano</i>	Ekaterina Kotcherguina
<i>Alto</i>	Emma Vawter
<i>Tenor</i>	Michael Hoffman
<i>Bass</i>	Sebastian Schmidt
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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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,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We hoard your gift of salvation for ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through the death and resurrection of Christ our Savior,  
grants mercy to all creation.

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

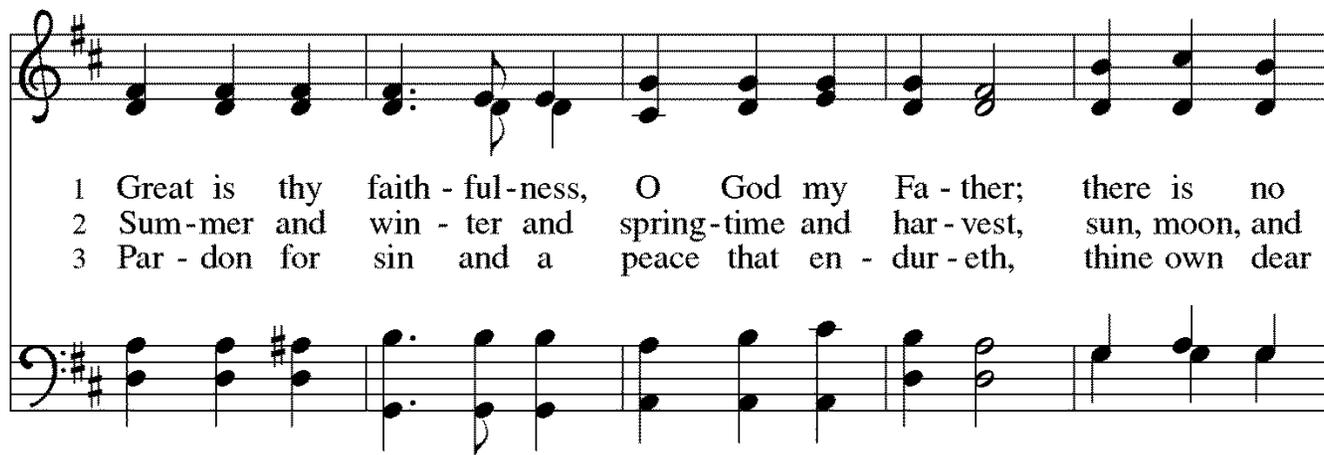
Led by the Holy Spirit,

may we live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

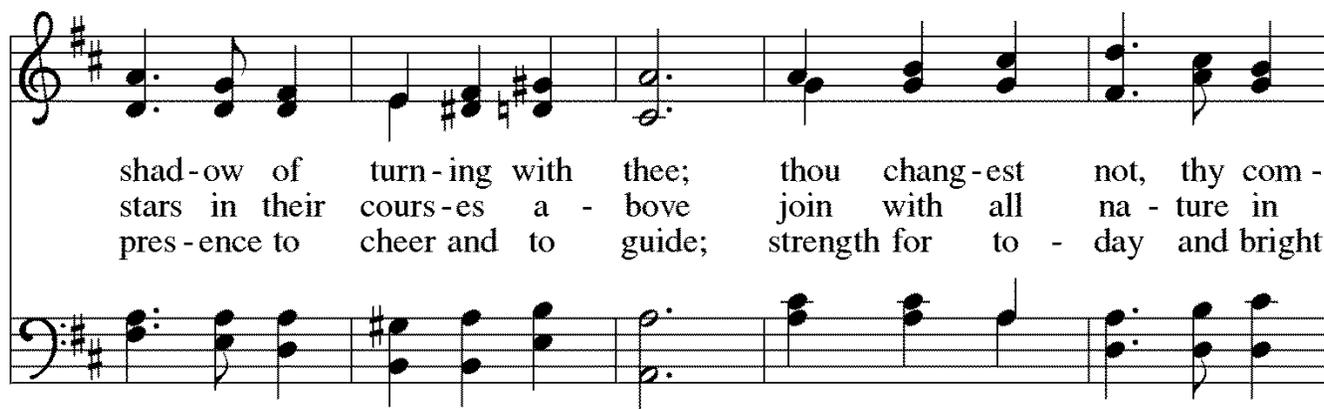
GATHERING SONG

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

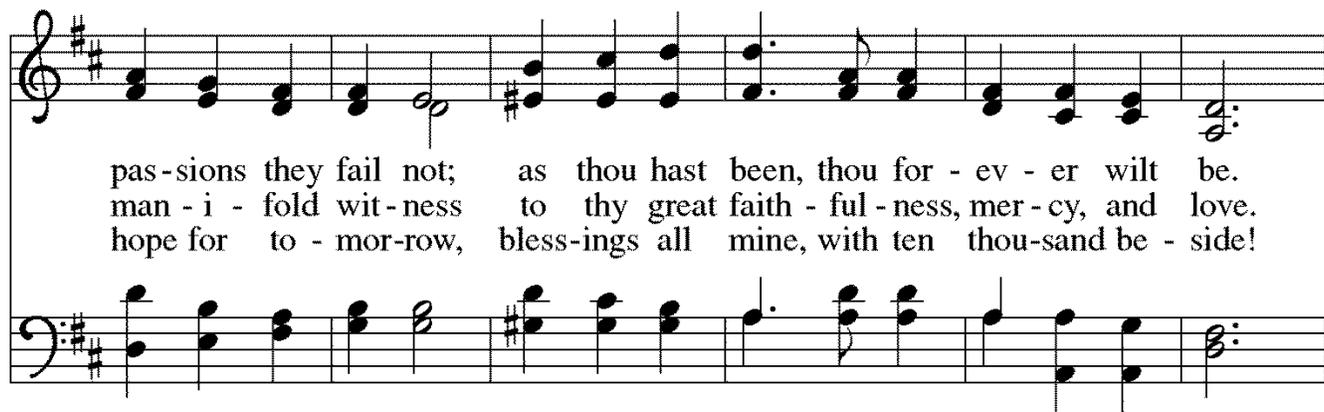
ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

**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.**

# GLORIA



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



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



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



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## WORD

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### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about

Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

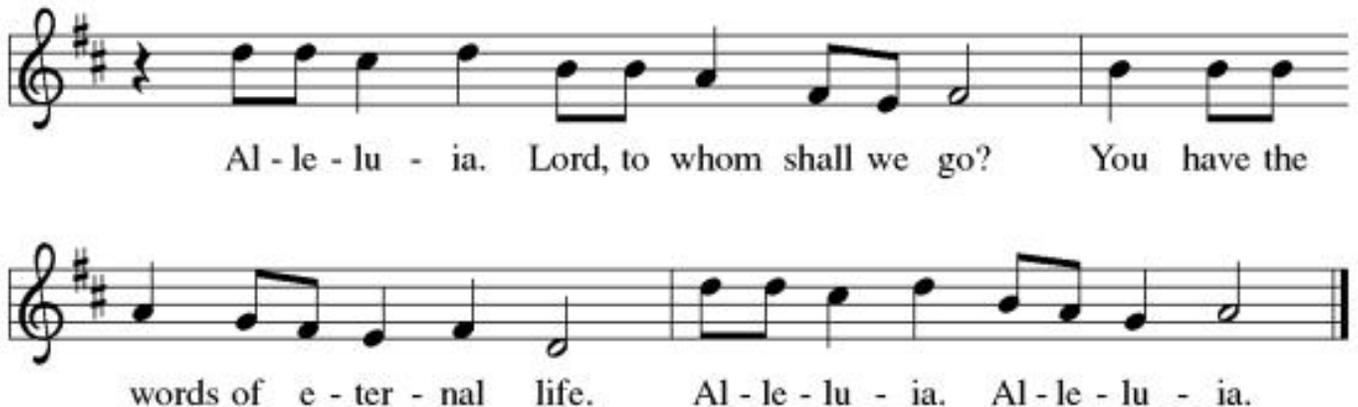
*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Pastor Matthew Weber

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
 oh, . . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
 and . . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

## **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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for works of service. Strengthen those who suffer. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, give us a spirit of generosity toward all of creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Teach us that you are extravagant, and that you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you comfort those who struggle. Grant hope, wellness, and restoration to health to all who are in any need. We especially hold in prayer those affected by devastating wildfires in the west, by hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, and those around the world impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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.*

## ANTHEM

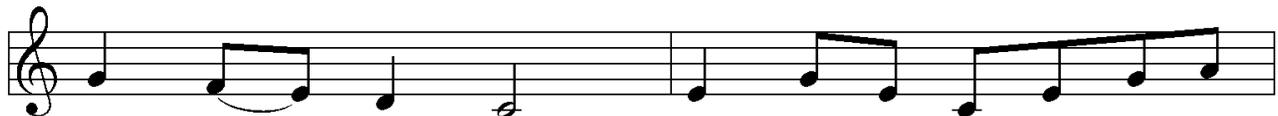
All Thy Works Praise Thee, O Lord Thomas Adams

## OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



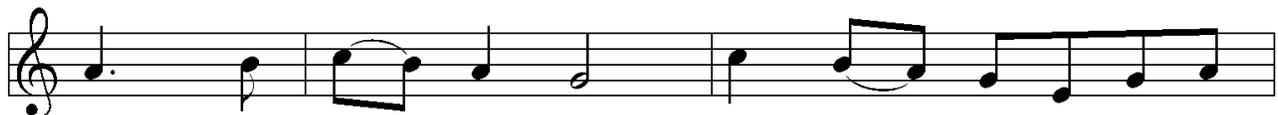
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

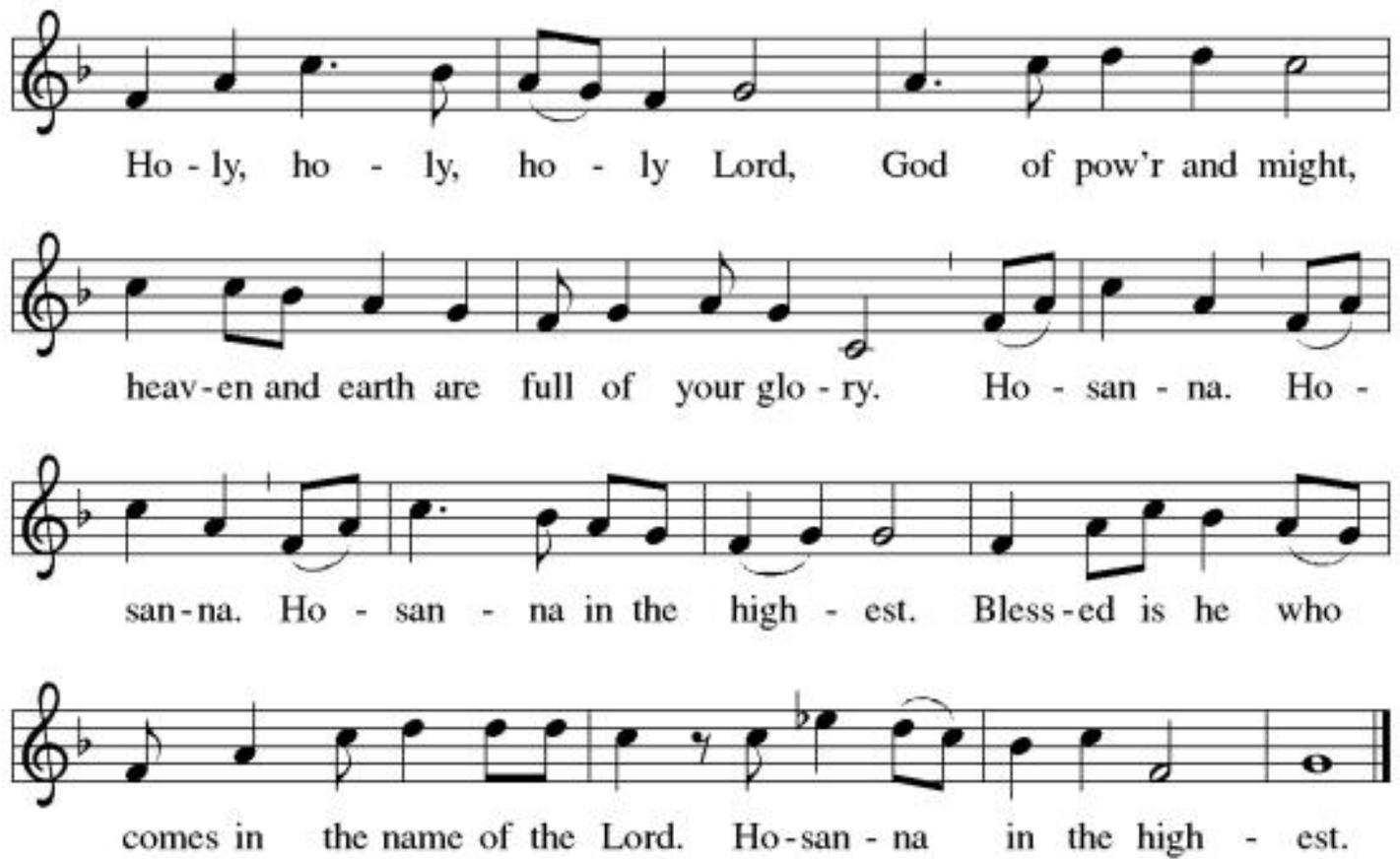
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places...

... So with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,  
 for on the night he was betrayed  
 Jesus gathered with his friends  
 for a meal that remembers and anticipates freedom

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.**

As we share this bread and cup, O God,  
and as we remember Christ's death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit into our dispersed midst,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed, and forgiven, and strengthened to serve you.

**Amen.**

As Christ has taught us, so we 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.**

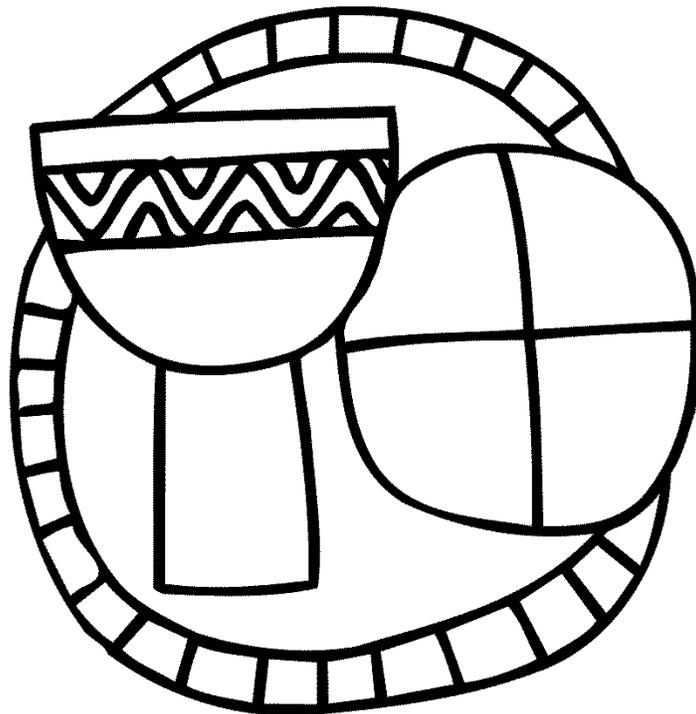
## **DISTRIBUTION**

*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**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that once again you have fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, September 27

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32*



**GRACE NOTES**  
a guide to parish life at Grace

September 20, 2020

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*We pray for those who are ill: Carol Painter, Allan Wolfe, Jacquie Poe (friend of Sandi Stahl);*

*those undergoing treatment: Tom Graziano (friend of Tom Lawson), Ron Lundal (family friend of the Lawsons), 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), Cheryl Fenske Prudic (niece of the Stewards), Mary Dorsett (former member of Grace);*

*hope and healing: those affected by the fires, especially Nelda Gamble's sister in Portland, Oregon, John and Nelda Gamble's daughter in Manzanita, Oregon, and Gayle Harms' grandchildren in California, Leon Fjestad (Anne Peterson's brother admitted to a memory care nursing home), Fran Dzilvelis (Ashley (né Stahl) Dzilvelis' mother-in-law) who was hospitalized, friends and family of Jan Adams grieving her death, friends and family of Richard Raedeke grieving his death July 12, 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), 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 McLenon (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 September is: [ELCA Racial Justice Ministries](#).**

We in the ELCA believe that Christ's church is for all people. God calls each of us by name, and it is not our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But as "saints and sinners," we know and experience God's work of healing and restoring as well as the persistent human pain and injustices of racism in the world. This is where God has put us, in the thick of life, where we participate in what God is doing by insisting on justice and upholding human dignity for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church and society.

We in the ELCA are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence.

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: ELCA Racial Justice Ministries" 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.

### **A Note from Pastor Matthew**

I should have done this a long time ago, but I was tied up in other books and so have only recently cracked the cover of *Growing in Grace*, this history of Grace Lutheran from our founding 'til the early 80s. Every time I sit down to read it, I find myself having a hard time putting it down. I'm really interested to keep reading about this deep and rich history of this congregation, and to see how Lutheran tradition is and has been alive and vibrant in our community.

Which reminds me of something that the Christian theologian and historian Jaroslav Pelikan once said: "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism

is the dead faith of the living. And I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name.”

I feel like Grace is a community in which tradition is alive and vibrant. And from what I've been able to discern in the past six months or so that I've the pastor, Grace is a community in which traditionalism doesn't have much of a foothold. At Grace, we seem to be a community which holds on to those things from our past which have been and continue to be life-giving; and we also don't seem to be afraid to let go of those things which no longer feed and nurture our faith.

This perspective, it seems to me, is a really healthy one to bring into a time the significant change that's occurring in our society right now (I'm referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to the increasingly rapid changes happening in general in our society).

It seems to me that the church (local, denominational, and global) is at a time in history when we have the opportunity, and might be required, to re-think how it is that we exist in the world. While the pandemic is bringing this reality into sharper focus, the church has been faced with this reality for a while. Consider the place which church occupied in society fifty years ago. The Daily Camera reported a few times on what Grace was doing, and the Boulder Mayor showed up at some of the big church services.

I can't imagine that happening today, because (by and large) church doesn't matter quite in our world today in the same way that it did in our history. I don't lament that change. But it's good to recognize it, because this is data that informs how we as Grace Lutheran interact with the world in which we live and move and have our being.

In short, I think that church (globally, denominationally, and locally) is facing noteworthy change in the present and immediate future. And I think that Grace is well-poised to embrace tradition and discard traditionalism, and to address changes necessary to vibrant ministry in healthy ways that don't diminish our history and that embrace our future. Finally (and this is not a change), remember to stay well, wash your hands, and keep on trusting in Jesus. ~ pr. m

## **Rooted in Grace**

Fellow Grace Congregation Members,

This year 2020 has developed into a different and difficult year for all families, communities, educational institutions, places of worship, and all activities during this pandemic. We at Grace, like many churches, are experiencing pandemic restrictions limiting our participation in in-person services, activities, and socializing.

In addition, Grace has a new Pastor and together we are getting to know each other under these very unusual circumstances! By extension of the Shepherding Groups' social activities "Meet the Pastor" and additionally, with the new Pastor's inauguration of the Wednesday Evening Outdoor Prayer Liturgy, an opportunity has been provided for all us to meet and get to know Pastor Matthew "live!"

Since the beginning of the pandemic, which resulted in the organization of the Grace Digital Broadcasting Task Force, we have faithfully addressed providing remote Worship Services. The members of the Task Force have continually and methodically been improving our Worship experience. These efforts to provide and improve visual, sound, and program production within our means and scope of total volunteer effort has been impressive. To seek further important Congregational needs for the fulfillment of the remote Worship Service experience, the Task Force has made a recommendation to Church Council to conduct a survey of the Congregation by a professional research team at a very reasonable cost.

Hopefully, the results of this upcoming survey will help determine a path forward to guide us in further understanding the Congregation's needs and wants. Our hope is that this next step will help lead and guide us on the journey ahead toward the fulfillment of Grace's mission. The virtue of Grace members has always been patience, understanding, and participation moving forward together!

As we travel this difficult journey PEACE be with everyone. Thank you.  
Tom Lawson, Grace Council President

This year, **National Pancake Day** falls on a Saturday...which means that Grace Lutheran is hosting *Pancakes with the Pastor* in the Grace courtyard on September 26, from 10:00 am to 11:45 am. Pastor Matthew will make four different kinds of delicious pancakes, along with coffee and all the proper pancake fixin's:

- Apple Cinnamon Pankcakes
- Sourdough Pankcakes
- Chocolate Chip Pankcakes
- Lemon-Ricotta Pankcakes
- Butter and Syrup
- Bacon and Sausage
- Yogurt and Fruit
- Coffee and Orange Juice

Of course, some people won't be comfortable attending an event like this. That's absolutely fine. You're not at all obligated to come. If you'd like to make your own pancakes at home, you're welcome to do that...we will even broadcast the event via Zoom like we do Sunday mornings.

We'll host three 30-minute "seatings" in the courtyard. [Please sign up](#) and indicate who will be joining you. If you feel comfortable sitting at a table with another Grace family, please sign up together as a group.

When you arrive, keep your mask on until you are seated at your table, and put it back on any time you walk around the courtyard or enter the building to use the restroom. We'll be implementing health and safety measures both in the kitchen and in serving the food to make the event compliant with Public Health orders. We hope you will join us!

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The **Grace Choir** will be holding rehearsals [via Zoom](#) on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us regardless of musical experience.

Spread the word to any friends who may be interested in joining us for any or all of our rehearsal, or to see how our music program works. Please [let Michael know if you are interested](#).

We're happy to share music with all of you!

We've added an **Evening Prayer Liturgy** to our schedule at Grace. Every other Wednesday evening we meet in the courtyard at 5:30 pm for a service of instrumental music, prayer, scripture, and silence. [Sign up for Wednesday, September 23rd here.](#)

If you would like to participate remotely, please use the [Worship Service link.](#)

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**Lectionary Bible Study** continues on Wednesday, September 23 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, September 27, 2020 are:

- **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32** *The fairness of God's way*
  - **Psalms 25:1-9** *Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)*
  - **Philippians 2:1-13** *Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*
  - **Matthew 21:23-32** *A parable of doing God's will*
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The Boulder Rotary is seeking nominations for the **Jim Swaebey Peace Award**. The award recognizes "a person or persons for outstanding achievement consistent with the ideals of Rotary as expressed in the Fourth Object of Rotary: 'The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service,'" according to the organization.

If you would like to nominate someone for the 2020 Jim Swaebey Peace award, please use [this form](#).

## Reaching Out in Christ's Love

**New Beginnings** also invites us to attend the virtual Chow Hall Gala. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 9 from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Their baseball themed event will feature musical entertainment, guest speakers from both inside and outside the prison, and—new this year—paddle raiser games. You'll hear from bestselling author Nadia Bolz-Weber who preaches and teaches inside Denver Women's as a New Beginnings volunteer. You will also hear from Dean Williams, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, who will speak about changing the prison culture in Colorado. Help them hit a home run! Information on tickets and other opportunities to support New Beginnings during the gala can be found [here](#).

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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 20

9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

**10 am Worship Service [via Zoom](#)**

### Monday, September 21

*Nothing Scheduled*

### Tuesday, September 22

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Wednesday, September 23

**10:30-11:30 am Lectionary Bible Study [via Zoom](#)**

11 am-6 pm Office Administrator Hours, Grace Office

12-1 pm Staff Meeting [via Zoom](#)

1-2 pm Digital Task Force Meeting [via Zoom](#)

**5:30 pm Mid-Week Evening Prayer Service, [Grace Courtyard](#) (or [via Zoom](#))**

### Thursday, September 24

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Friday, September 25

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

### Saturday, September 26

*Worship Packet Deliveries*

**9:45 am Pancakes with the Pastor, Grace Courtyard ([sign up here](#))**

**10:30 am Pancakes with the Pastor, Grace Courtyard ([sign up here](#))**

**11:15 am Pancakes with the Pastor, Grace Courtyard ([sign up here](#))**

### Sunday, September 27

9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

**10 am Worship Service [via Zoom](#)**