

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Heinz Raidel  
Pam Villarreal, Musician

11:00am

8950 Refugee Road  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
Phone: 614.868-3397

THANKOFFERING SERVICE  
November 17, 2024

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome

*The congregation is asked to respond where appropriate. Stand as you are able.*

P: We begin, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**WELCOME LITANY**

As we continue our worship, please join me in our welcoming litany.

**Psalm 100**

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Please respond with the parts in bold.

Let everyone who has ever felt cast aside, hurt, or lonely say, **“I am welcome here.”**

Let everyone who has experienced joy and beauty say, **“I am welcome here.”**

Let everyone who desires to find the goodness of God say, **“I am welcome here.”**

Come just as you are. **Jesus promises to meet us here.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*We Praise You, O God (ELW 870)*

## We Praise You, O God



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**A:** May the amazing grace of Jesus, the extravagant love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**A:** God of Heaven and Earth, we are gathered here today to celebrate your abundance. We pray that you pour out on us your Holy Spirit, and your grace, love, mercy, and compassion to share with all of your people. Forgive us for the times we have failed to do so. Lord, bring healing into the lives of those seeking your comfort, bring peace to those who know conflict, and bring strength to those everywhere who are working to bring about your kingdom here on Earth. Today we ask that you bring still-

ness to our hearts and minds as we reflect on the women of the Bible and their leadership, courage, and faithfulness; those whose names we know, and those who still are unknown to us. In your holy name we pray,

**C: Amen**

### THE WORD

#### **Sarah (wife and mother). Genesis 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?"

#### **Naomi and Ruth (outsider). Ruth 1:7-16**

<sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge,  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

#### **Esther (leader and advocate) Esther 2:15-18, 4:13-14.**

<sup>15</sup>When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except

what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was admired by all who saw her. <sup>16</sup>When Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup>the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favor and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup>Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers — "Esther's banquet." He also granted a holiday to the provinces, and gave gifts with royal liberality.

<sup>13</sup>Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup>For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

### **Mary and Martha (sisters, disciples). John 12: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

### **Lydia (business woman). Acts 16:11-15**

<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**THE MESSAGE**

Anna Fiehler

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*My Lord, What a Morning (ELW 438)*

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## **THANKOFFERING PRAYERS**

A: May communities of faith worldwide be places of welcoming, affirmation, safety.

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

A: May refugees of climate and social circumstances find homes filled with hope in unexpected places.

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

A: May those who suffer or feel castaway be guided toward open hearts and communities of love.

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

A: May our community feel loved, blessed, and embraced by the never ending love of God.

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

A: For prayers spoken, silent, or given to the care of our community...

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

A: May we give thanks for all those who provide nurturing in our lives, that we may all find ways to love one another and see our neighbors as beloved children of God.

**C: God of welcome, hear our prayer.**

P: We pray this in the name of God who loves us so extravagantly and abundantly.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **THE OFFERING**

**The Offertory**

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen  
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## Offertory Prayer

A: Gracious God, We give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ,

**C: Amen.**



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: As we await the fullness of Christ's coming, Let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

(Silence for reflection and self examination)

P: Our indifference towards your coming.

**C: we confess to you O Lord**

P: Our desire to control time and seasons

**C: we confess to you O Lord**

P: Our failure to be aware of signs of you in our midst,

**C: we confess to you O Lord**

P: Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: we confess to you O Lord**

P: Our injustices towards the people you came to save,

**C: we confess to you O Lord**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, and the grace to know joy in the Savior's coming.

**C: Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**C: Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.**

**All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.**

**Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.**

**Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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A: All praise to you, glorious God of grace. Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith. With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life. With Ruth, we praise you for family and food. With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe. Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets. Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.

A: Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people. One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

A: With Mary, we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**C: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

A: Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal. Living, he healed the bleeding woman; dying, he cared for his mother; risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

P: On the night before he died, he 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.

P: 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.

P: With Mary, again we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**C: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

P: Mighty God of mercy, as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us. Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world.

P: Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe, we serve one another with zeal.

P: Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna, we tell others of your mercy. Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas, we care for the poor and needy.

P: With Mary, once more we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**C: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

P: All praise to you, powerful God of peace. We adore you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you who mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

P: Send your Spirit upon us and this meal as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, to let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all honor and glory is yours Almighty Father with the Holy Spirit in your holy church both now and forever,

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

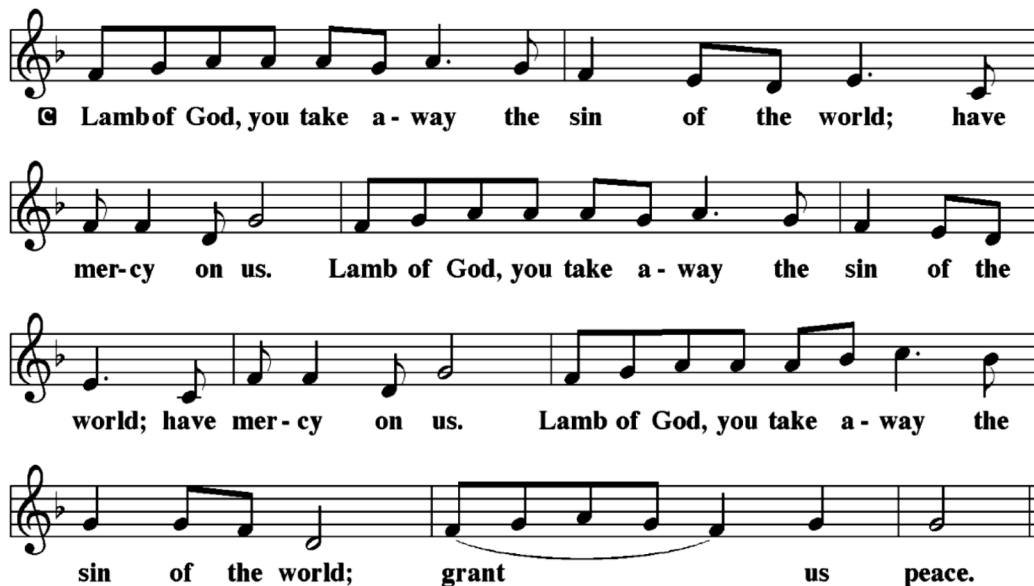
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread  
C: **Make us one body, broken for the world.**

P: In Christ's presence there is a fullness of joy, all are welcome to the table of the Lord in this house.  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

### The Distribution of Elements

#### Agnus Dei/Lamb of God



♩ 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.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Holy God, You have provided for us a feast of life. We are nourished and we are grateful. Strengthen us through this meal and send us out to provide for others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord.  
C: **Amen**

### **THE BLESSING**

A: God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

**C: Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!**

A: God has done wonderful works for all people:

**C: Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!**

A: God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

**C: Let us remember God's mercy!**

A: God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

**C: Let us join our voices in singing our praise!**

P: The God of abundance, Creator, † Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)*

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## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
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## **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Chimes

Postlude

## **Welcome Statement**

All are welcome at Grace Lutheran. We rejoice that diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share as members of the body of Christ and workers in the kingdom of God. We believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family configuration or relationship status, socio-economic status, mental health status, or physical or mental abilities. We strive to be a more inclusive and anti-racist community. We know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, we extend a particular welcome in Christ's love.