



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Heinz Raidel
Pam Villarreal, Musician

11:00am

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

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 28, 2026

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.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Holy Creator, We stand before you to confess. We carry sorrow in our hearts for the things we have done and for the things we have left undone. We have not sought to do Your will with our whole hearts. We have not loved others or ourselves as Christ has loved us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Merciful God,

P: Too often we measure worth by strength and productivity rather than by Your love. We have overlooked those who are lonely and neglected those who need care.

C: Forgive us for the times we have turned away from the suffering of our elders.

P: We confess that we have failed to see Christ in those who are aging, those who are sick, and those who depend upon others.

C: Forgive us for the times we have looked away and remained silent when we should have acted.

M: Renew us by your Spirit. Strengthen us to protect the 'least of these' amongst us.

C: Open our eyes to recognize Christ in our neighbors. Help us honor the dignity of every person, and reflect your love in all that we do.

P: Hear this good news. Blessed are those who confess and turn to God, for they shall be comforted. God, who is rich in mercy, makes us alive together with Christ. It is by grace that you have been saved. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

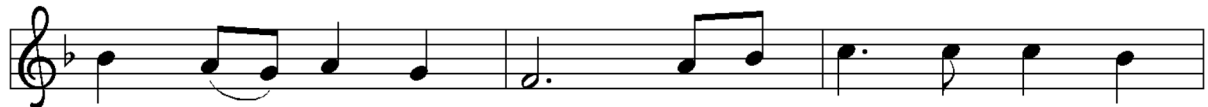
GATHERING HYMN
All Are Welcome (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy re-shape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

KYRIE

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

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THE WORD

THE FIRST READING: Proverbs 16:16-31

- ¹⁶ How much better to get wisdom than gold!
 To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- ¹⁷ The highway of the upright avoids evil;
 those who guard their way preserve their lives.
- ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction
 and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- ¹⁹ It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor
 than to divide the spoil with the proud.

- ²⁰ Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper,
and happy are those who trust in the LORD.
- ²¹ The wise of heart is called perceptive,
and pleasant speech increases persuasiveness.
- ²² Wisdom is a fountain of life to one who has it,
but folly is the punishment of fools.
- ²³ The mind of the wise makes their speech judicious
and adds persuasiveness to their lips.
- ²⁴ Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
- ²⁵ Sometimes there is a way that seems to be right,
but in the end it is the way to death.
- ²⁶ The appetite of workers works for them;
their hunger urges them on.
- ²⁷ Scoundrels concoct evil,
and their speech is like a scorching fire.
- ²⁸ A perverse person spreads strife,
and a whisperer separates close friends.
- ²⁹ The violent entice their neighbors
and lead them in a way that is not good.
- ³⁰ One who winks the eyes plans perverse things;
one who compresses the lips brings evil to pass.
- ³¹ Gray hair is a crown of glory;
it is gained in a righteous life.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

- ¹ Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- ² **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**
- ³ "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴ **'I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.
- ¹⁶ **They rejoice daily in your name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸ Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: 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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twentieth chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 31-40

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

THE MESSAGE

Minister Staci Stought

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church of Christ, in Every Age (ELW 729)



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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THE PRAYERS

A: Guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

APOSTLE'S CREED

A: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

THE PEACE

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share the peace.

THE OFFERING

The Offertory

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. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Offertory Prayer

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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 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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P: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

P: On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

P: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

P: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

C: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u-ni-ty of the Spir-it, all glo-ry and hon-or is
yours, O God, now and for ev-er.
A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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..

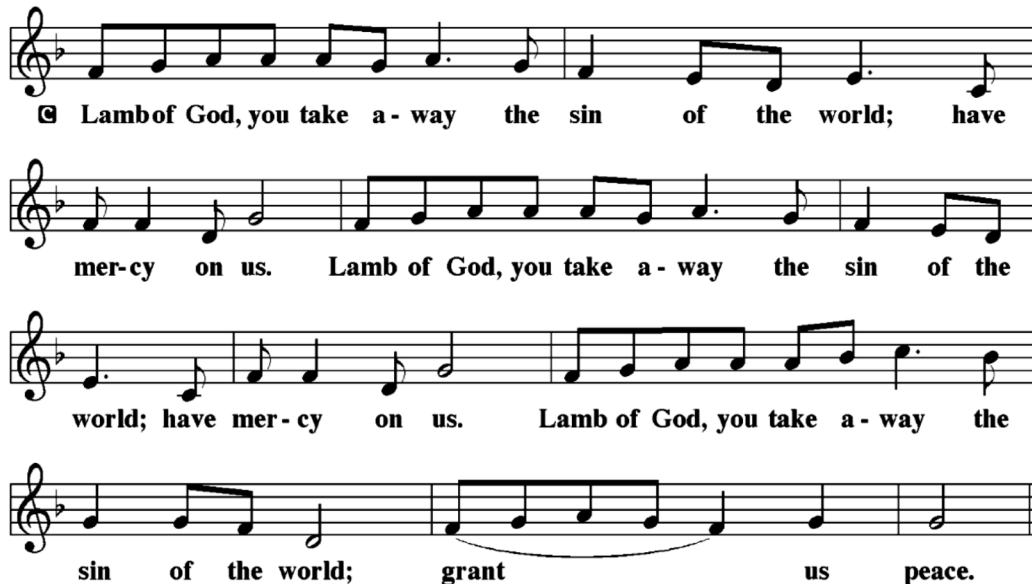
Invitation to Communion

P: In this house, inside these walls, everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Distribution of Elements

Agnus Dei/Lamb of God



C 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: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen

THE BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)



- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

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.