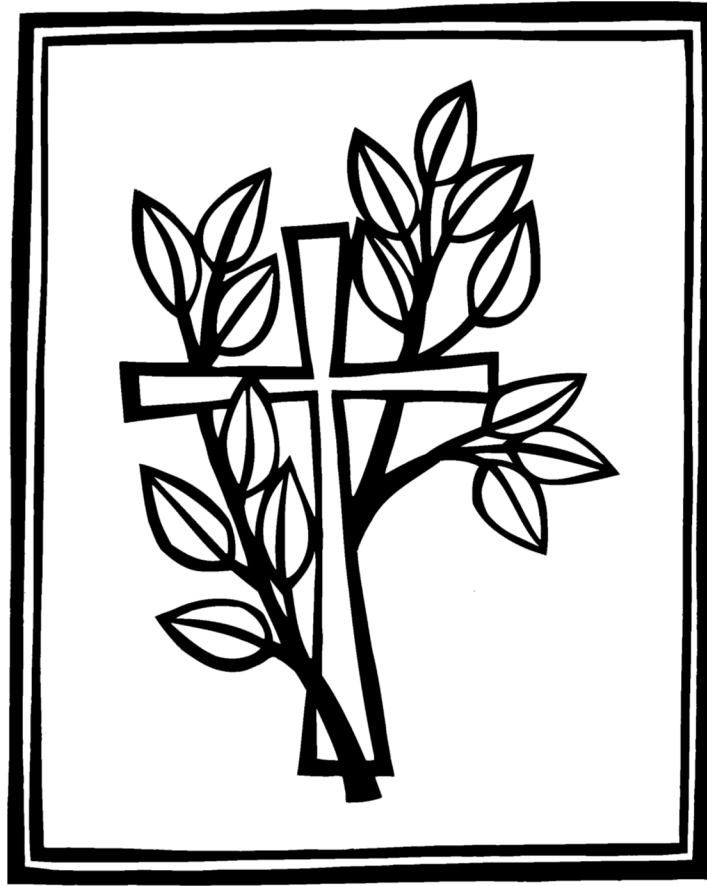




Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Heinz Raidel
Pam Villarreal, Musician

11:00am

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

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 30, 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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Stand as you are able.**Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.**GATHERING HYMN***For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)*

- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

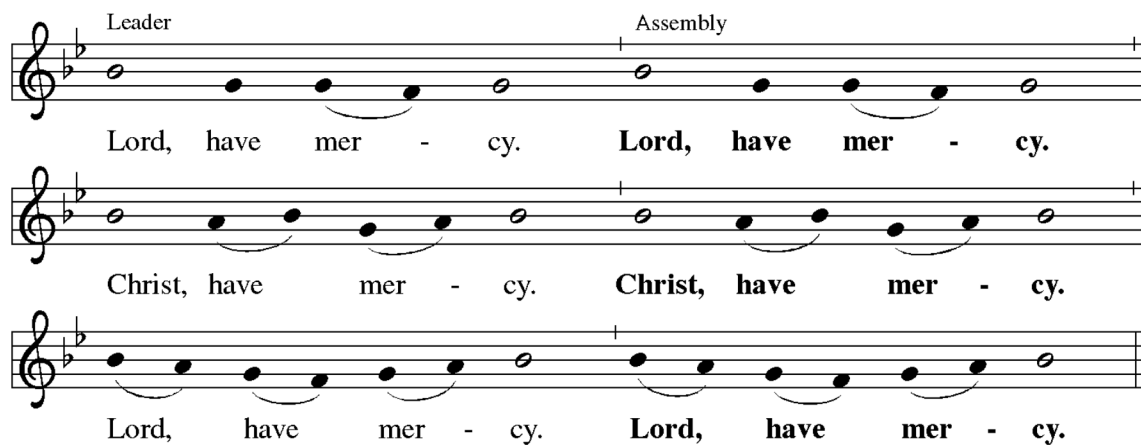
C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE



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



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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THE WORD

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

- ¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
 remember me and visit me,
 and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
 In your forbearance do not take me away;
 know that on your account I suffer insult.
- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
 and your words became to me a joy
 and the delight of my heart,
 for I am called by your name,
 O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
 nor did I rejoice;
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
 for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
 my wound incurable,
 refusing to be healed?
 Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
 like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**
³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**
⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixteenth chapter:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit

them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

THE MESSAGE

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)



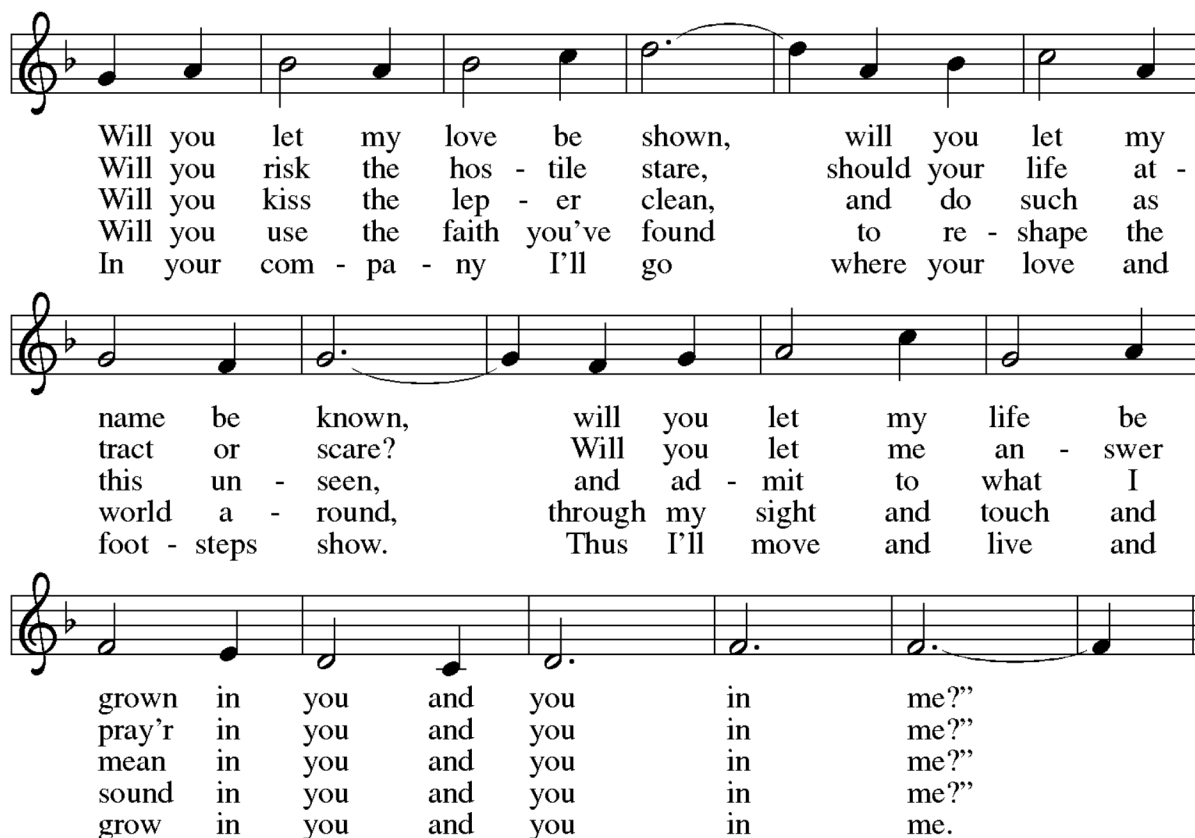
1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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THE PRAYERS

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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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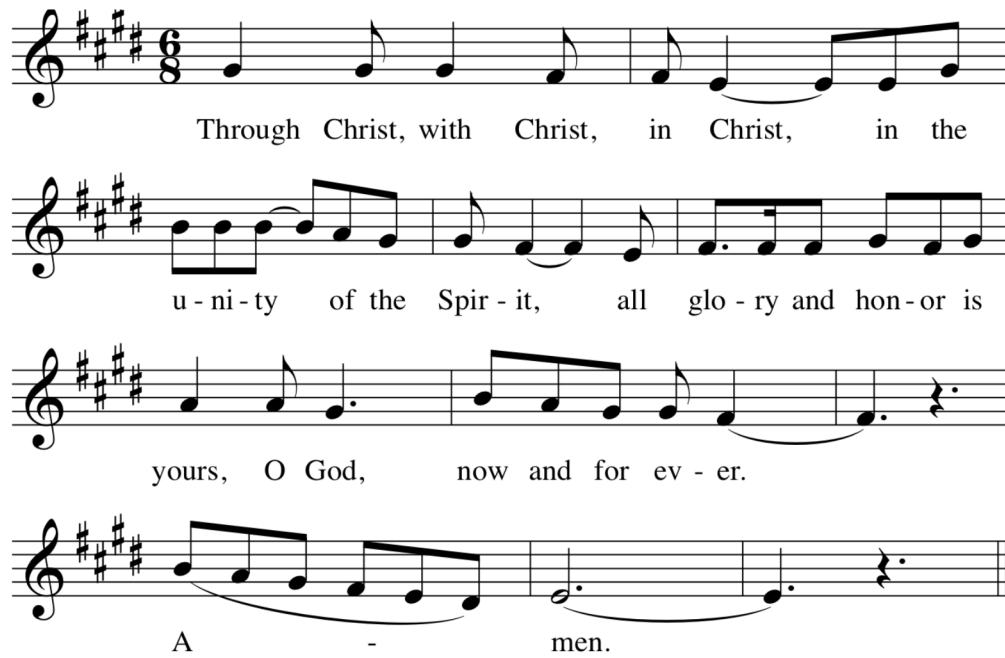
P: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from 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;



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..

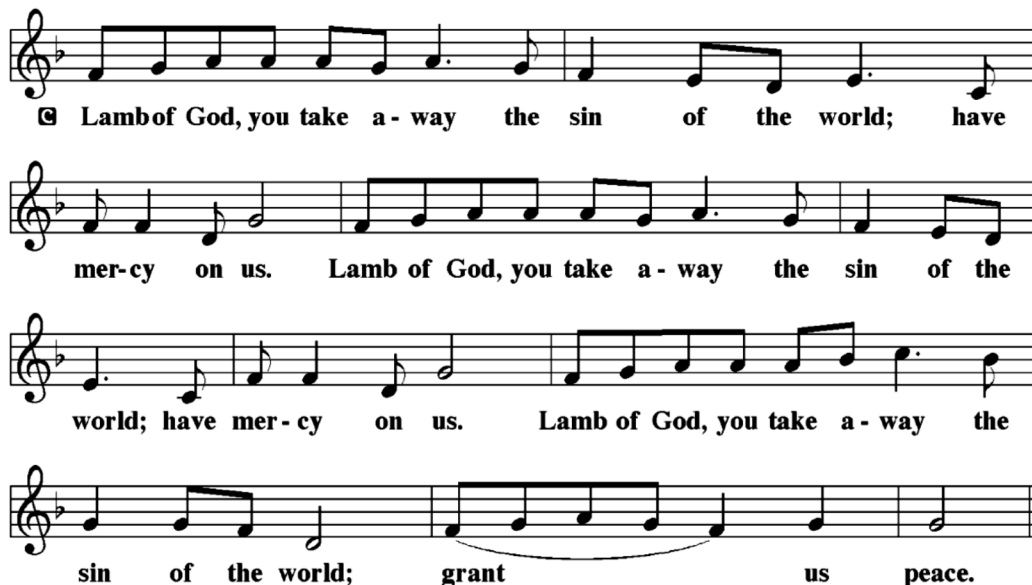
Invitation to Communion

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



♩ 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

Blest be the Tie That Binds (ELW 656)

Next Page



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend-ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

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.