



Grace Lutheran Church

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020

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

**Bold type = Assembly**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

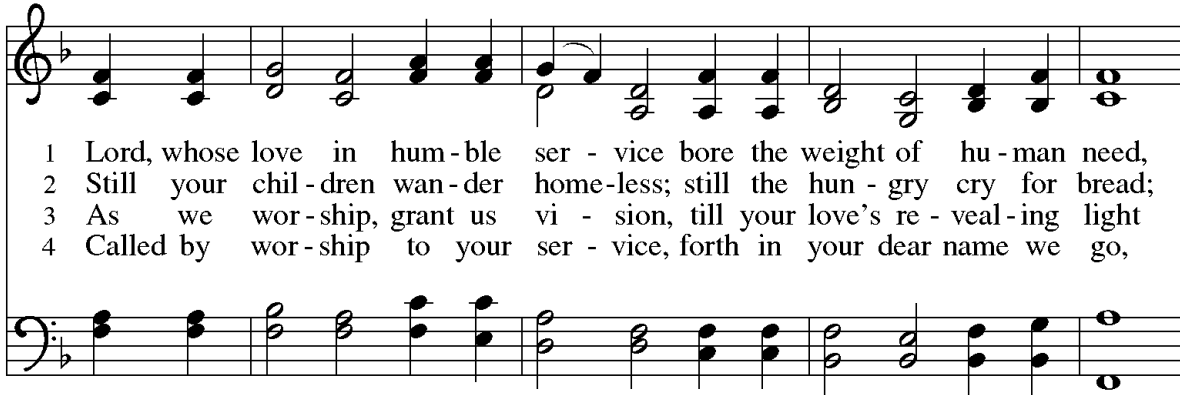
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

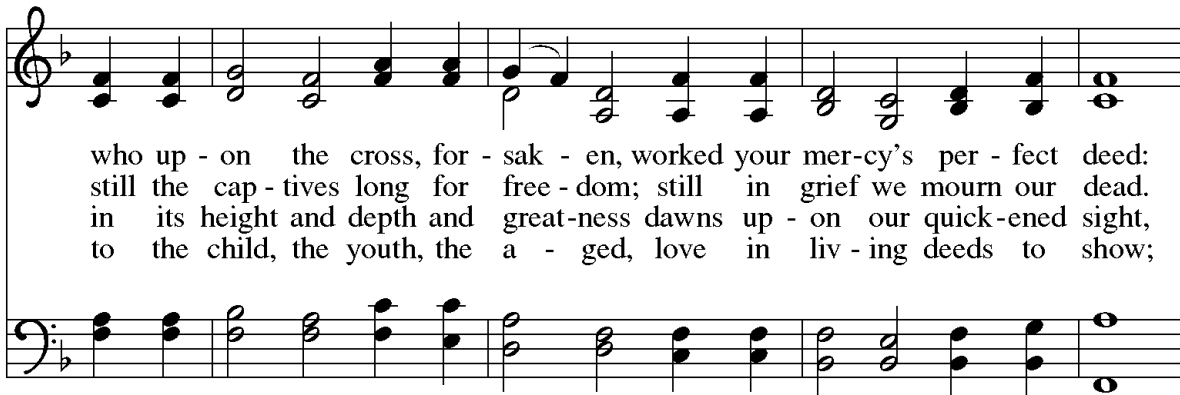
Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

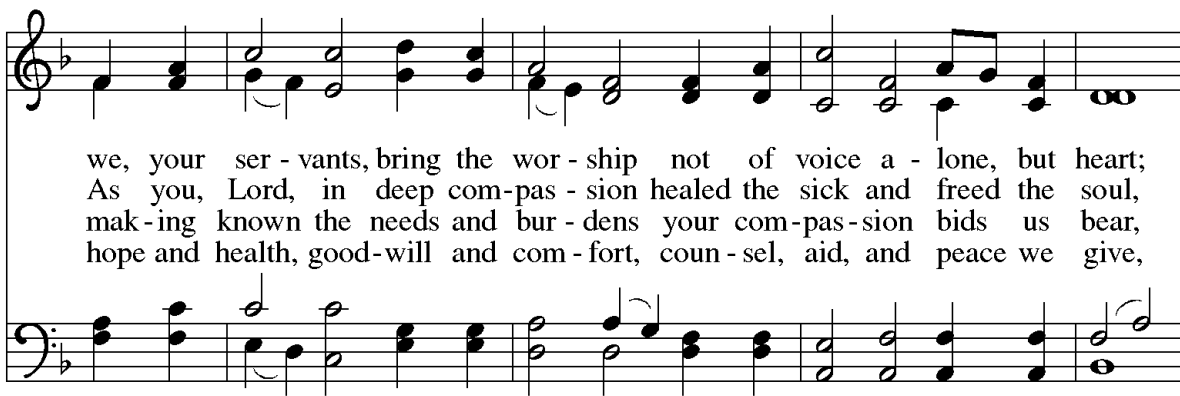
Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



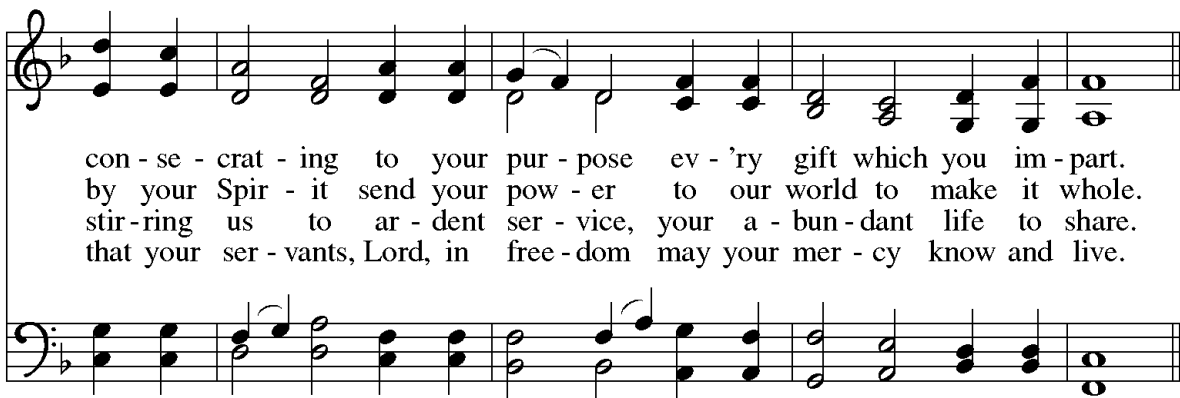
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:  
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.  
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray –

**Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*(Pause and listen as desired)*

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(Pause to view if desired)*

## FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 55:1-5**

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21 (Read in unison)

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

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>**The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.  
<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.  
<sup>17</sup>You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.  
<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.  
<sup>19</sup>You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.  
<sup>20</sup>You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.  
<sup>21</sup>My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;  
 let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

**SECOND READING**

**ROMANS 9:1-5**

*This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.*

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

SERMON ~

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

(ELW 674)



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE PEACE

*Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

*The Pastor and the Assembly greet each other in the peace of Christ.*

## OFFERING

*This is normally the place in the service where we would collect the offering. We understand that this pandemic is making many people uneasy, and that finances are a concern for some among us. We ask that you please remember that our expenses continue, as well, even while we are practicing social distancing; that we still have bills to pay and the day to day costs of running a church to cover. We humbly and prayerfully ask that – if at all possible – you continue to be faithful to your financial commitment to Grace.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING ~ Anthem**

*(Pause and listen as desired)*

*MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## A CELEBRATION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*During this time of fasting from in-person worship, we have also been fasting from the Sacrament of the Meal – Holy Communion. Many among us, including our worship leaders, miss both the gift of the Meal, and the sharing of Communion in our community of faith.*

*For those unable to receive holy communion during a worship service there has long been a tradition known as “Spiritual Communion,” an act of belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist and an expressed desire for Christ's presence in the believer's soul.*

*Spiritual Communion is not the Meal in the way we are used to receiving it. However, it does allow us to see the Bread and the Cup, and to hear the Words of Institution and the Great Thanksgiving. It also allows us to experience the truth, that even when we cannot receive Christ physically, in the bread and wine, we can receive him into our hearts, our minds, and our being.*

*At this time, Pastor Jenn will lead us in the liturgy of Communion, lifting up the elements and blessing them. We will then say the Lord's Prayer together and, after that, you may pause the service to pray your own prayer of reception of Spiritual Communion, or you may use the prayer printed in your booklet. We hope that you will feel a connection to one another – and to Jesus – in this act of Spiritual Communion.*

*Please know that this is optional. If you do not feel moved to participate in Spiritual Communion, you may skip ahead to the Sending portion of the service.*

## **THE 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 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.

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

**Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

## **PRAYER FOR THE RECEPTION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*(You may pray this prayer, written by Dr. Teresa Burger, Yale Divinity School, or a prayer of your own)*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the Eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen**

*SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✚ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*“The Church of Christ, In Every Age”  
(See back of booklet)*

**(ELW 729)**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace! Christ is with you! We will! Thanks be to God!**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2919 MICCOSUKEE ROAD, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308**  
**[www.gracelutheran.faith](http://www.gracelutheran.faith)**

## **MINISTERS: All the people of God**

**PASTOR:** The Rev. Jennifer M. Kopacz ~ [pastorjenn@rocketmail.com](mailto:pastorjenn@rocketmail.com) **PASTOR’S CELL PHONE:** 850-800-7197

**CHURCH OFFICE PHONE:** 850-877-5423

**CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Lisa D. Rubin ~ [graceluthch@earthlink.net](mailto:graceluthch@earthlink.net)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Anthony Warrington ~ [windkeys@gmail.com](mailto:windkeys@gmail.com)

**CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Leslie Heffner – [heffnerl@gmail.com](mailto:heffnerl@gmail.com)

**READER:** Tina Frese

**RECORDING & TECH PERSON:** Nick Gandy



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 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  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 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.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.