

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
September 25, 2022

***Good morning & Welcome to Grace
in the time after Pentecost.
We are so glad you are here!***

***Our mission is to invite and welcome all
to the fellowship of Christ in service to our community.***

When we consider the ideal of discipleship, we inevitably come up short. But the gift of grace frees us to be disciples in a new way. With God's law written on our hearts, we can dare to take up Paul's call to Philemon, serving our neighbor not out of duty, but on the basis of love. Discipleship is a serious calling, but also a joyful one. What are we waiting for? (From 'Sundays and Seasons', Augsburg Fortress).

Children are welcome in worship at Grace! The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! There is also a Children's Message for them, just prior to the reading of scripture. And, if needed, there is a nursery available for any family to use.

Your bulletin contains the worship service in its entirety, **and your parts are printed in bold type.**

In thanksgiving to God for the saving grace shown to all of us in the death and resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each week. All are welcome at the Table. We do come forward to the front of the sanctuary for communion. The Pastor stands in the center of the aisle with the bread. Gluten-free bread is available, just let the pastor know and the dish will be offered to you, from which you may take your own wafer. Finally, both **wine (red)** and **juice (white)** are available, on both sides, based on your preference.

For those participating from home, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune. When we come to the Meal portion of the service, and the people who are present in person are coming forward, please eat your bread and drink your cup as you are moved to do so.

If you have questions about our worship service, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you. For more information about Baptism or Communion, about what Lutherans believe, or even about Grace Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastor.

Again, we're glad you're here! Welcome to worship!

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

PRELUDE

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

TFF 233

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness, **we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen**

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ☩ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

"What Is This Place"

ELW 524

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.**

KYRIE

Refrain: All Stanzas: Pastor

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

Stanzas:

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord. Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord. Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord. Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord. Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Largo”

arr. Kevin McChesney

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel’s great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God’s people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes. And we read:

^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; ⁶who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM 146 (*Read in unison*)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

**⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

**⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.**

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed
down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

First Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich. And we read:

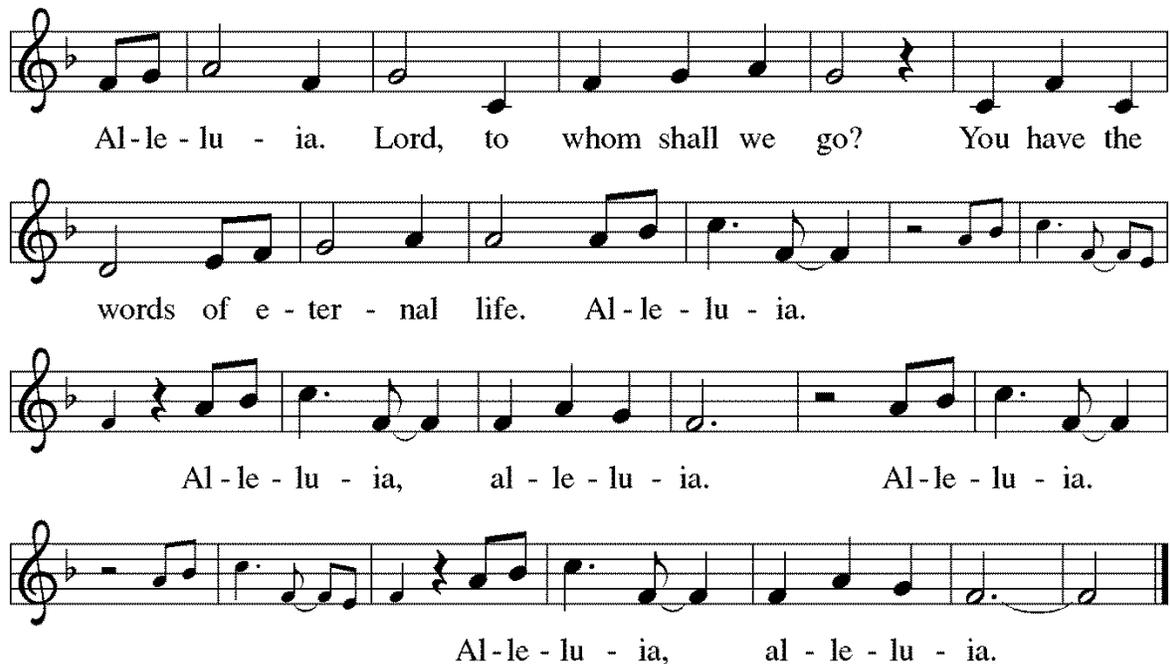
⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time - he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord. **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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

Our lesson this morning comes from the gospel of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets. And we read:

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is

comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer Kopacz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

ELW 719

THE CREED ~ *Let us affirm our faith using the words of 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 power of 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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation (*a brief silence*).

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. By your Spirit, empower the baptized, in this place and throughout the world, to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches, and give us wisdom to be good stewards of all you have given us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Increase justice in the nations, in local governments, and in courts of law. Guide judges, lawyers and all those entrusted with holding public office, to act with

compassion and discernment as they carry out these duties. And stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors, whoever they may be. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Comfort those who are suffering, especially the sick, the dying, and those in mourning. Be with all those on our prayer list and everyone we name before you now. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, worship assistants, artists, poets, and all who create beauty and hospitality in this place. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Welcome the saints who have died in the warm embrace of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us, and bring us to eternal life with them, in the light of your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. David Ashley White

OFFERING

We give thanks for the faithful commitment of the people of Grace to supporting our ministry through your giving. If you would like to offer a gift, the collection plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience. Thank you again.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, **in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Those moved to do so may rise.)

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.

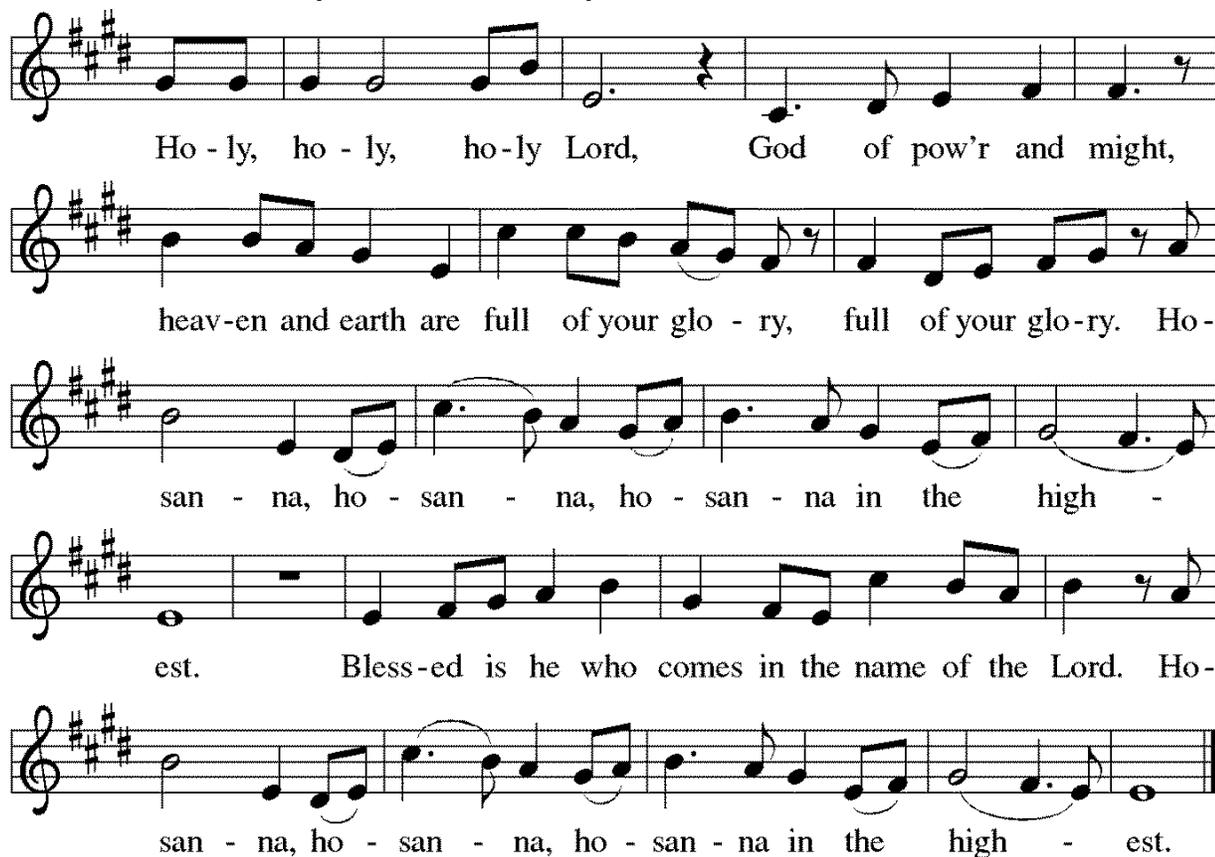
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the proper preface:

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (THE SANCTUS)



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE & THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

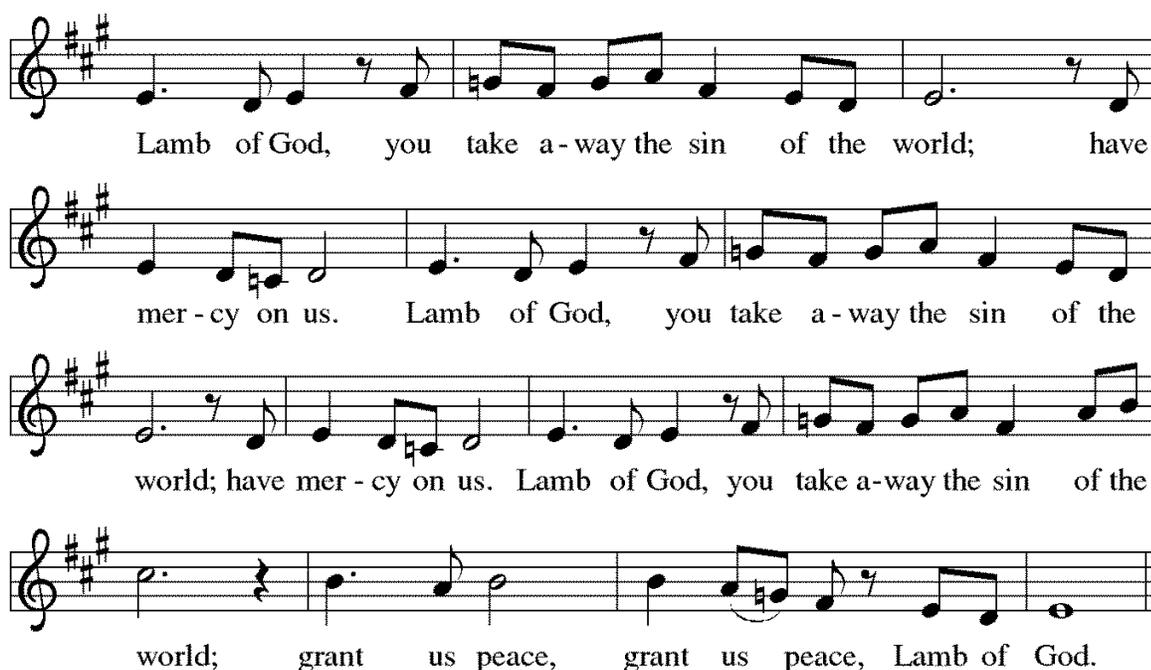
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see. **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please see inside of front cover for more information.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*“Christ, Be Our Light”
“We Come to the Hungry Feast”*

**ELW 715
ELW 479**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

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

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
We will! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW 723

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