



# Grace Lutheran Church

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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**

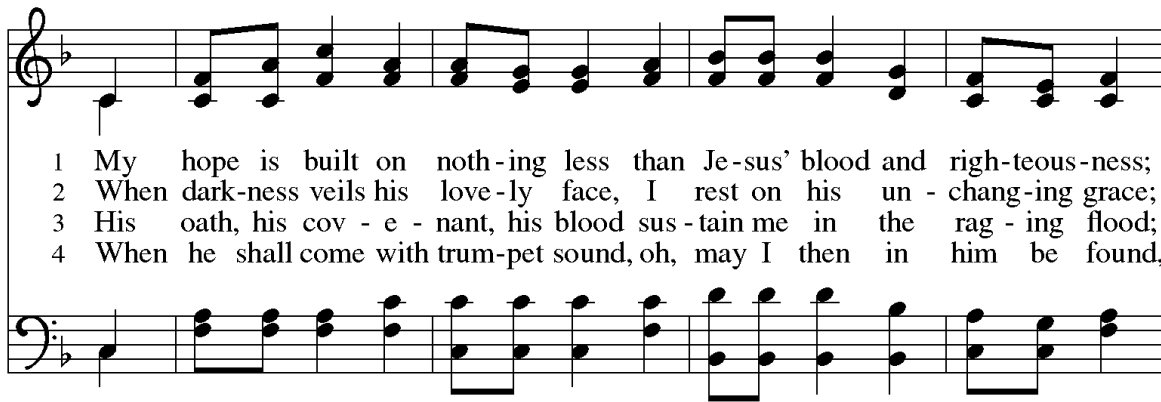
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*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**

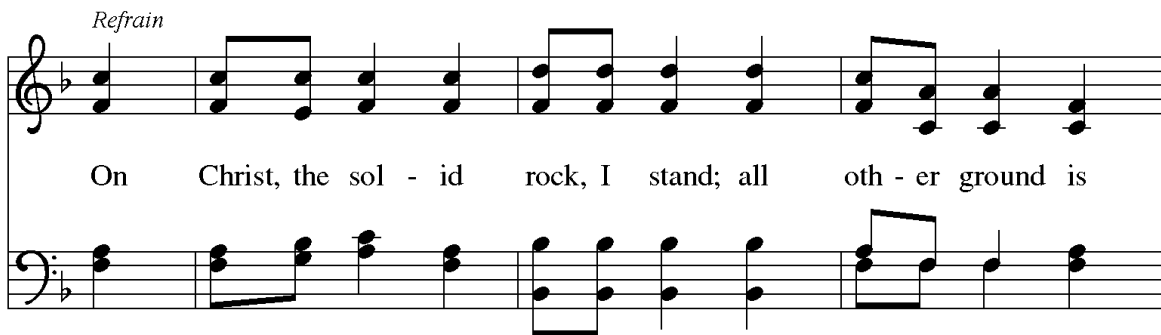


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

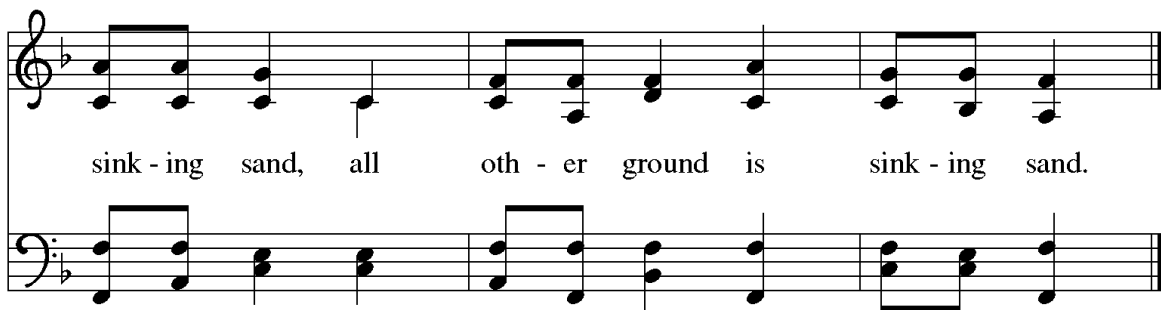


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.  
 Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

## 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 –

**Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of 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 44:6-8**

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

## PSALM 86:11-17 (Read in unison)

<sup>11</sup>**Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>**For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.**

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>**But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;  
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

### GOSPEL

### MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came

and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

**SERMON ~**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Praise and Thanksgiving”**  
*(see last page)*

**(ELW 689)**

**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, for whatever reason, to receive holy communion during a worship service in Western Christianity 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.*

*It is not the same thing as receiving physical Communion, and we are aware of that. But 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**

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

**(ELW 679)**



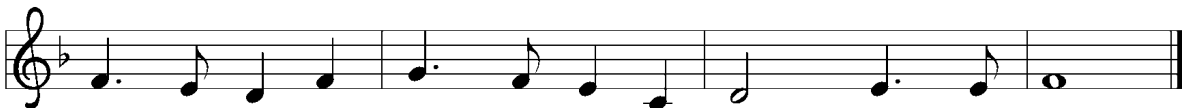
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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**DISMISSAL**

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



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**READER:** Nick Gandy

**RECORDING & TECH PERSON:** Denise Wetzel

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
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