

REFORMATION DAY

Charter Sunday

October 31, 2021 ♦ 9:00 am



WELCOME TO GRACE OF GOD

A note to first time visitors:

Whoever you are, wherever you have come from, whatever you believe, you are welcome here. God welcomes ALL to receive his love and know his grace. That is what we celebrate in our gathering together here at Grace of God. If you are new here, we invite you to participate in our worship that includes the singing of hymns and songs, the reading of Scripture, and hearing God's love proclaimed. We celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) every Sunday. We believe in this eating and drinking Christ is present and we receive the gift of God's love. We are glad you are with us today and look forward to meeting you and knowing you better.

Small children are welcome in worship

"Busy bags" for young children are available in the "Good Shepherd" room adjacent to the worship space near the doors. That room also has a speaker to hear the worship service.

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our comforter:

C **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from suffering and injustice.

We exploit your good gifts with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

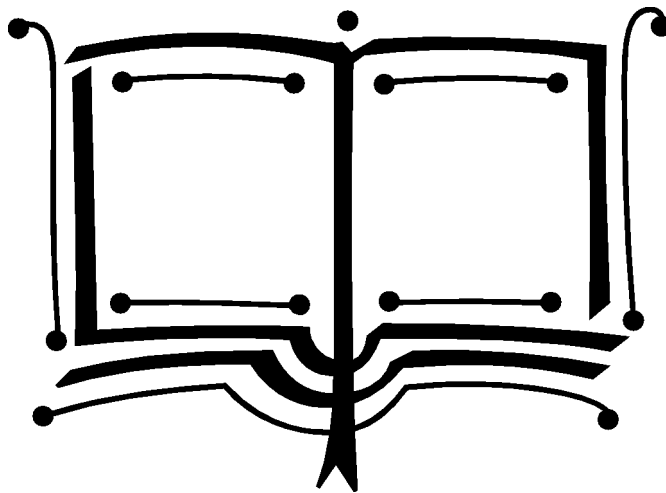
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C **Amen.**



HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the

house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more

PSALM 46

Cantor: *Refrain*

All



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,
though the wa-ters rage, you, God, are here.
Though the na-tions war, though the peo-ples bat-tle,
though the em-pire fal-ters, we will not fear.

P God is our refuge and strength,

C **a very present help in trouble.**

P Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,

C **though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

P though its waters roar and foam,

C **though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

All *Refrain*

P There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C **the holy habitation of the Most High.**

P God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

C **God will help her when morning dawns.**

P The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

C **he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

P The LORD of hosts is with us;

C **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

All *Refrain*

P Come, behold the works of the LORD.

C **how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

C **he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.**

P "Be still, and know that I am God.

C **I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!"**

P The LORD of hosts is with us;

C **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

All *Refrain*

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a

gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;
³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress" (Martin Luther's interpretation of Psalm 46)



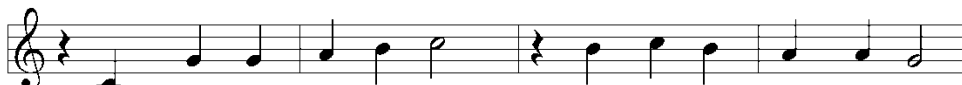
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH and RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus said to his disciples, ““Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge them before my Father in heaven.” I invite you now to confess your Christian faith and commit yourselves to Christ and to His Church.

Do you this day in the presence of God acknowledge the gifts God gave you in Baptism?

All Yes, I do.

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

All I do renounce them.

P Do you believe in one God, the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

All Yes, I believe in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P Do you hold the Holy Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be faithful and true?

All Yes, I do.

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?

All I do so intend by the grace of God.

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

All I do so intend by the grace of God.

(for the reception of new members)

P Ralph, Gervaise, Don, Becky, Arlynn, Bonnie:

Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

New members: **Yes, I do.**

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

New members: **I will, with the help of God.**

P Upon this your confession of faith and your intention of commitment, you are received as members of Grace of God Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing us as your sons and daughters to faith in Christ and enabling us to confess His holy name. Grant that by your Word and Spirit we may continue steadfast and immovable in the one true faith until the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

CHOIR “Speak, O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

PRAYERS

(Response to each petition)

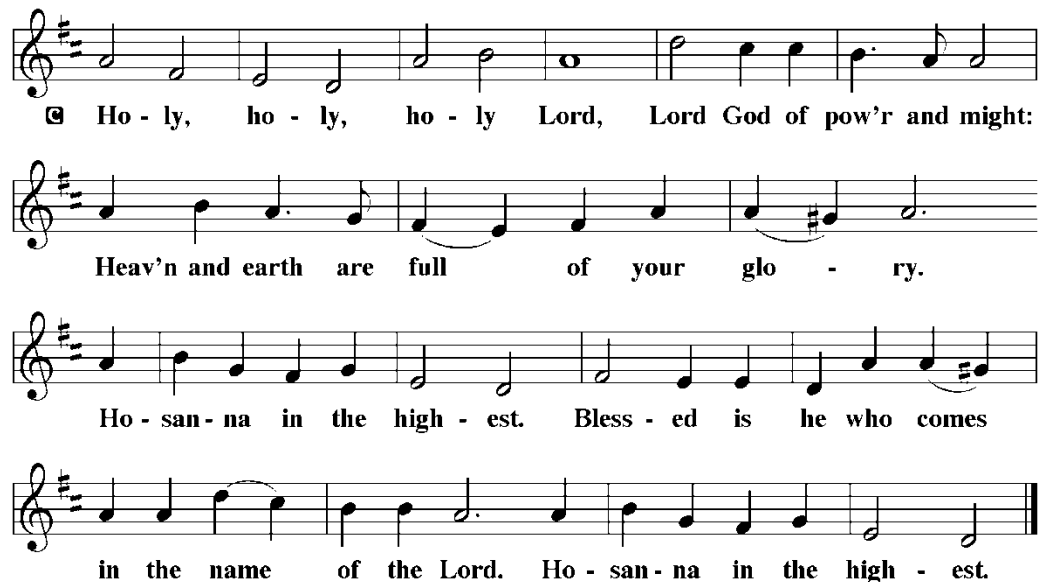
- P** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- 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 our 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 through our Savior Jesus Christ; He overcame death by his resurrection and opened up for us the way to eternal life with you. 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:

SANCTUS ("Holy, holy, holy")



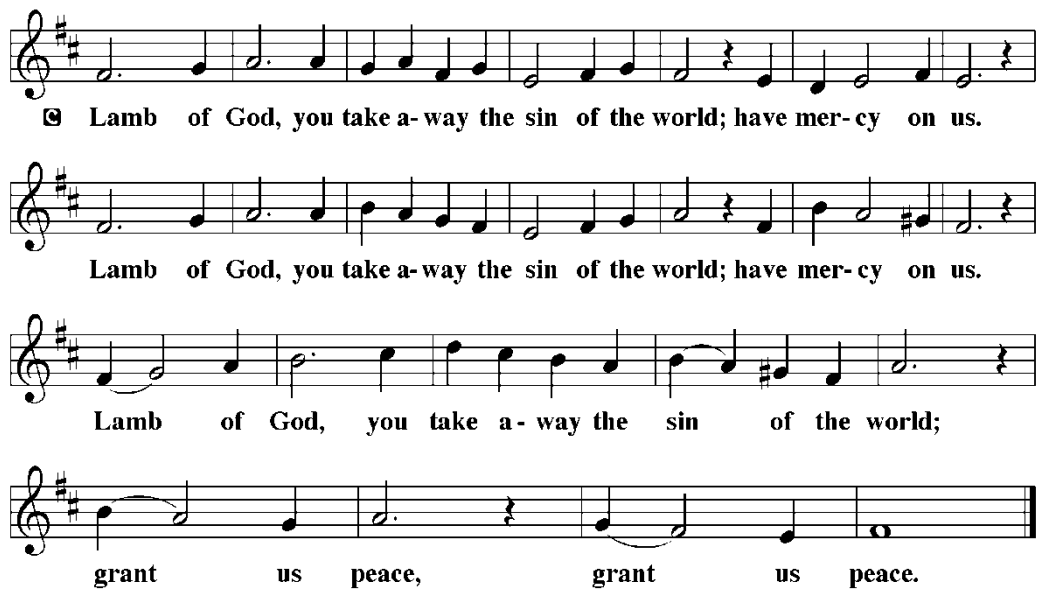
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

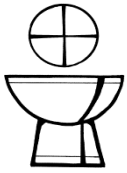
All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



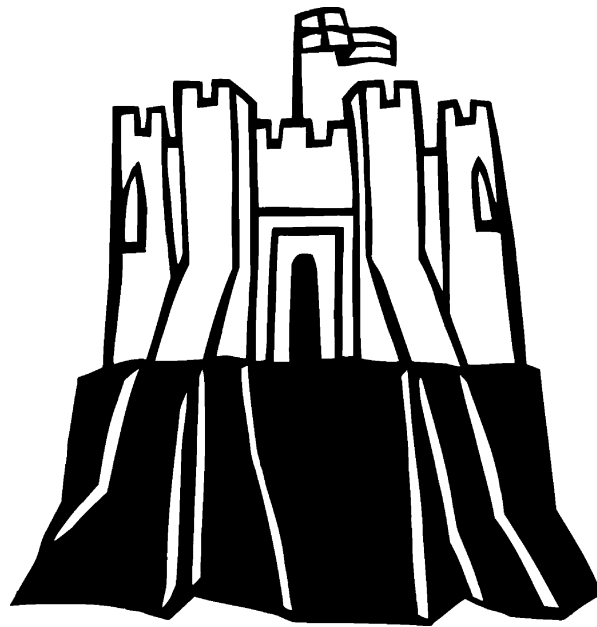
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION



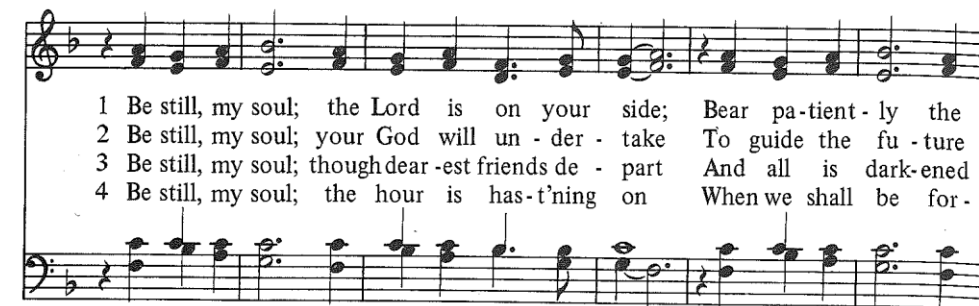
Scripture says, “Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism* says, “Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink.” All baptized Christians who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord’s Table today. Children who have not received their first communion are invited to come to the table and receive a blessing.

- As you approach the altar down the aisle, receive an empty cup from the cart. (non-alcoholic wine is offered in pre-filled cups for those who cannot drink alcohol. These cups are marked in the rack.)
- Maintain physical distance in line.
- Receive the bread (Gluten-free/dairy-free/nut-free wafers are offered)
- Proceed to the right to receive the wine.
- As you return to your seat down the side aisles, place your cup in the racks on the tables to your right.

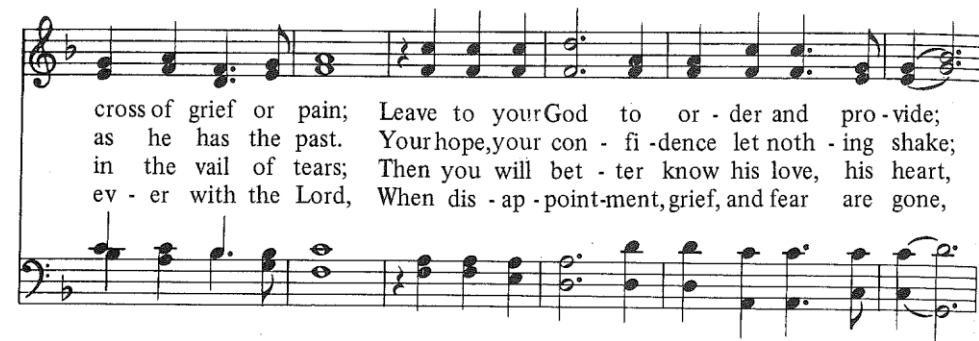


THE LORD OF HOSTS IS
with us

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Be Still and Know”



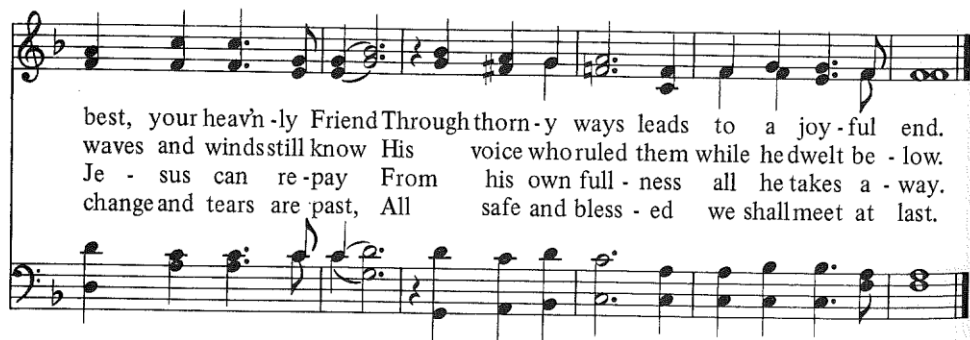
1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-ly the
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the fu-ture
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear-est friends de-part And all is dark-ened
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall be for-



cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der and pro-vide;
 as he has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 in the vail of tears; Then you will bet-ter know his love, his heart,
 ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,



In ev-'ry change he faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul; your
 All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the
 Who comes to soothe your sor-rows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your
 Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul; when



best, your heav'n-ly Friend Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while he dwelt be-low.
 Je-sus can re-pay From his own full-ness all he takes a-way.
 change and tears are past, All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

DISMISSAL

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

P Let us pray: Lord of Life,

C in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
 Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love
 in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

- P Go in peace. Christ lives in you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “Thy Strong Word” (stanzas 1, 2 and 4)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; at thy speak-ing
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark-ness, dark as night and
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ-teous; bright with thine own
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break-eth forth in



it was done. For cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
 deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
 ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
 con-qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er beam-eth



while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.
 and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who

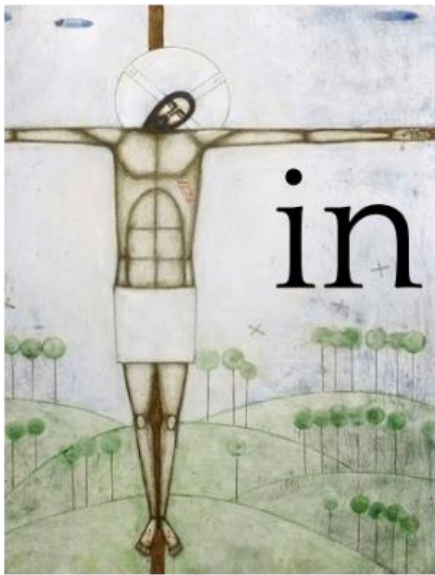


light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR CONGREGATION with your offerings.
You may place them in the plate in the entryway this morning, mail it to the church or make your offering online.



LIVING in GRACE

Sunday morning Adult Bible study
Begins September 26 at 10:15 am

NEXT SUNDAY at 10:15 am

Bring your coffee and doughnut into the worship space.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**LET'S ALL ENJOY OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY AFTER WORSHIP
TO WELCOME AND GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ralph and Gervaise Berg
8133 4th Street N. Apt. B300
Oakdale, MN 55128
651-895-2038
ralphgervaise@gmail.com

The Bergs recently moved to Oak Meadows from Alexandria where they had a large home on Lake Geneva. They lived there for 36 years until they moved to be closer to their daughter and her family in Lake Elmo. They also have son who lives with his family in San Diego. They have 4 grandchildren. Ralph worked in the telephone industry for his career as a communication engineer and a sales manager. Gervaise likes to garden and sew and has made 7 queen size quilts! She likes playing cards. Ralph is big on fishing and is a collector of stamps, coins and antique glassware. Ralph and Gervaise were active at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria and we are delighted to welcome them as part of our Grace of God family!

Don and Becky Mindrum
8665 Irving Circle North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-343-7605
bmindrum@hotmail.com

We are so happy to welcome Don and Becky to our congregation! They moved to Lake Elmo from Lake City in 2020. Don as 2 sons and 5 grandchildren; Becky as a son and a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Don worked for the Minneapolis Star-Tribune for 42 years. Becky retired from 3M. Don loves music. He plays the guitar, banjo, and keyboard (and sings in our Grace of God choir!). Both Becky and Don enjoy gardening and traveling. They have been members most recently of a United Church of Christ congregation.

Arlynn and Bonita (“Bonnie”) Sanders
2475 Tierney Ave E.
North St. Paul, MN 55109
651-600-3741
absanders1@hotmail.com

Bonnie and Arlynn grew up in Wisconsin and moved to Minnesota in 2019. Arlynn grew up on a farm and likes fishing and woodworking. Bonnie is a gardener and crafter, likes walking with a friend, reads and enjoys puzzles. Both Arlynn and Bonnie attended Lutheran congregations and were involved in many things in their church including teaching Sunday School and mission trips. The Sanders have a son in California and a daughter in Oakdale. They have two grandchildren nearby! We are grateful to receive Bonnie and Arlynn into our congregation!

WE ARE ALL ONE BODY IN CHRIST!



BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 from 4 – 6 pm

**WISH LISTS ARE POSTED on the door in the entryway.
HELP SUPPORT THIS GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

So many things are coming together to bring our Bethlehem Experience to life!

Our Teams busy at work are: Crafts, Communications, Costumes, Hospitality, Nativity Story Play, Logistics, Prayer, Lights and Sound and Props. Currently, there are 56 folks making up our 9 teams! It's not too late to jump aboard! Extra hands make tasks go faster and more laughter makes for more fun! We need you to come on this December 4th journey!

If you have a place we can put up a poster, please contact Sally Warren. We will have them ready mid-November and we want to paper our area with this great invitation to join us in Bethlehem.

Below is this week's prayer as we continue to prepare for December 4th.

Please add this prayer to your daily prayers!

Gracious Father, thank you for filling us with the wonder of the Christmas season. We long to share this story of your love for us. You direct our hands and feet. You place inspiration in our hearts. You whisper your desires in our ears. Let all those gifts come to life in the coming days. In Jesus' name – Amen.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday at 1:00 pm

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

CLEANING TEAMS

We are forming the cleaning teams for 2022! This is an important and needed role. If you have not 'jumped in' to be on a team, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or see Cindy Bartz or Sally Warren to be added.

Thank you for prayerfully considering!

Thank you!

We are so grateful for your very kind and generous gift and the beautiful flowers you presented to us last Sunday for Pastor Appreciation! We cherish the life we share and the partnership in ministry that God has given us as a congregation. We cannot thank you enough for your love and support of us.

WE LOVE YOU!

Pastor Jon and Dawn

GRACE OF GOD LEADERSHIP

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Eileen Ocone

Vice-president

Allen Warren

Secretary

Jeff Olofson

Treasurer

Dan Evenson

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Chris Fallert (chair), Bob Koeritzer,
Kathy Rehbein, and Cami Hartleben

Board of Finance

Robyn Corson

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Christine Fahey

Board of Outreach

Bob Usselman

Mission Committee

Audrey Gilman

Facilities Committee

Sally Warren and Cindy Bartz

Fellowship Committee

Barb Fallert and Jill Olofson



GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 Hayward Avenue North ♦ Oakdale, Minnesota 55128
651.730.4900 ♦ www.graceofgodlutheran.com
Jon Marxhausen, Pastor