

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 1, 2023 ♦ 9:00 am



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

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 really present for us and we receive the gift of God's love in his body and blood.

We are glad you are with us today and look forward to meeting you and knowing you better.



GATHERING

The first part of our worship gathers us all together in Jesus' name for worship

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We remember our identity as God's people in baptism as we gather for worship. In baptism we are forgiven and given new life.

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

P In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P Gracious God,

All have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All Amen



ENTRANCE HYMN

We begin worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”



1 The trum-pets sound, the an-gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta-bles are la-den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun-gry heart he sat-is-fies, of-fers the



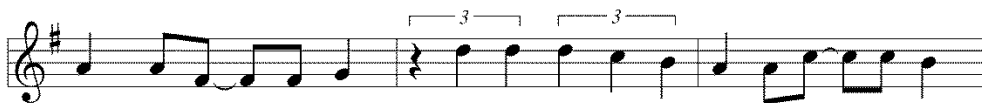
read-y to be-gin. The gates of heav'n are o-pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di-vine;
poor his par-a-dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap-plaud



and Je-sus wel-comes you in-side.
he'll turn your wa-ter in-to wine.
the a-maz-ing good-ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank-ful-ness songs of pure de-light. Come and rev-el in



heav-en's love and light. Take your place at the ta-ble of the King.



The feast is read-y to be-gin, the feast is read-y to be-gin.

GREETING

This Trinitarian greeting is from one of Paul's letters to the early church.

- 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.

KYRIE

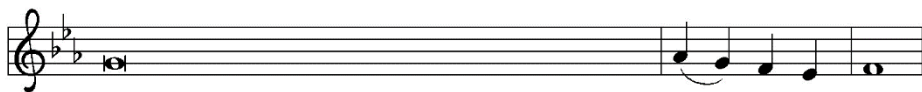
Kyrie, eleison means "O Lord, have mercy." It is an ancient and all-inclusive prayer. When we have God's mercy we have everything we need.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



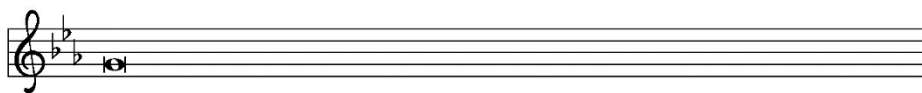
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



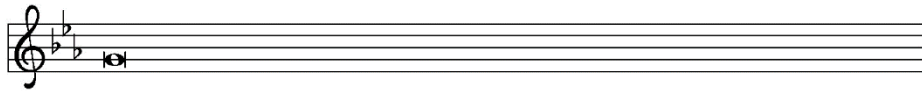
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



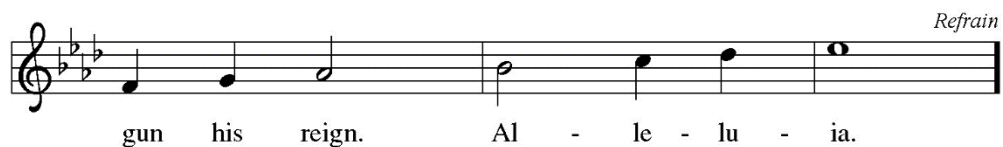
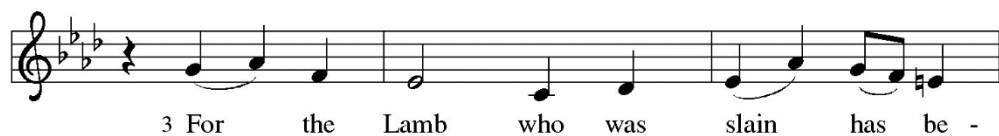
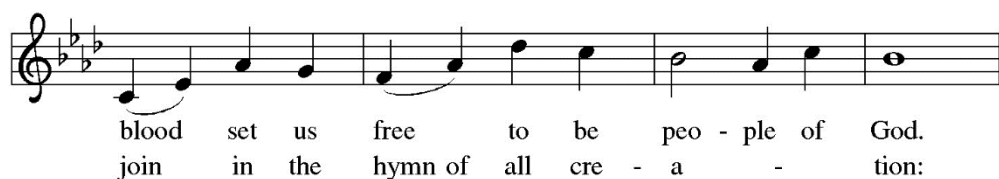
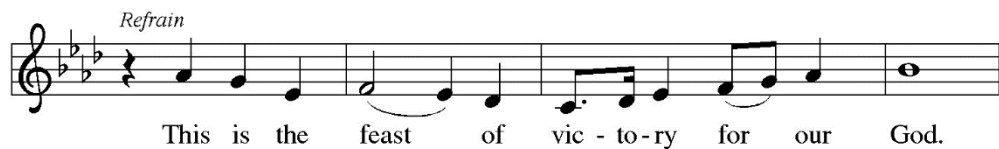
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

The hymn of praise, taken directly from the songs of angels in Scripture, centers our service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The prayer or “collect” of the day, appointed for each Sunday, “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the character of God as revealed in the Scriptures for the day.

P Let us pray.

All **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Now we listen to God’s Word which reveals law and Gospel to us and ultimately leads us to Christ – the Word made flesh.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA VERSE

This brief acclamation expresses our joy at hearing the words of Jesus who alone has words of life. We stand to honor Jesus' living presence among us.

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. This is the main reading of the day because of the primary importance of Jesus' words and actions

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
- 2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, if you can - not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can - not be a watch - man, stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
- 4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing, who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
you can tell the love of Je - sus; you can say he died for all,
point - ing out the path to heav - en, of - f'ring life and peace to all,
while the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing and the mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the mas - ter calls you; rich re - ward he of - fers free.
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed with the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
with your prayers and with your boun - ties you can do what God de - mands;
Take the task he gives you glad - ly; let his work your plea - sure be.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I. Send me, send me?"
you can lead the lit - tle chil - dren to the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
you can be like faith - ful Aar - on, hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
An - swer quick - ly when he calls you, "Here am I. Send me, send me!"

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

The words "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." The Apostles' Creed is the oldest statement of faith based on the teachings of the apostles. The Nicene Creed was formulated in the fourth century at the Council of Nicea and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship among the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity.

AI 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**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

This ancient practice is a sign of our unity and reconciliation in Christ and prepares us to receive the Lord's Supper. "Peace be with you" are the words the Risen Jesus himself used when he greeted the disciples on the first Easter night. The gift of peace we receive from Christ we share with each other as we share a common life. Handshakes, hugs, kisses are all appropriate signs of peace. "No-contact" alternatives include putting your hand on your heart and extending your hand to the other person as you say the words without physical contact.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

PRESENTATION OF OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS

Everything we have belongs to God and we give back to him a token of our thanks and praise. We present our gifts to God – those brought to worship today as well as offerings made online. We also present requests for prayers to be offered aloud in our prayers today. You may fill out a card and place it in the offering plate before worship.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of mercy and grace,

A the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen

PRAYERS

Together we pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. We pray for global concerns and for our community of faith. Prayers from this community may be requested before the service. We are reminded in prayer of God's mercy and that we are part of a larger fellowship, the body of Christ.

(Response to each petition)

P God, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Having confessed our sins, listened to the Word of God and affirmed our faith, we are ready to experience the miracle of Holy Communion.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In this "Praise and Thanksgiving" we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: Thank God and recall what God has done for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

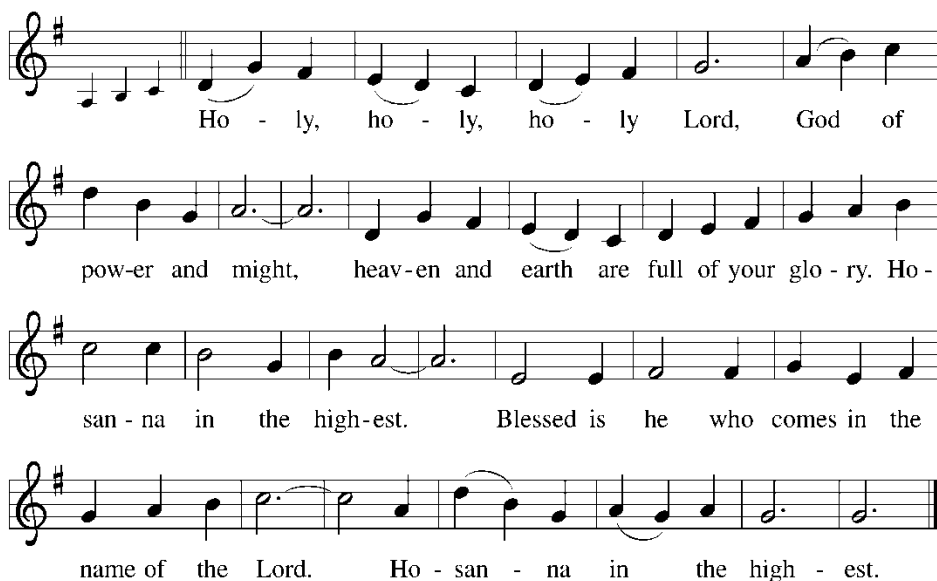
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P We give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, 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”)

The Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3. This song is coupled with the song of praise of those in Jerusalem who waved palm branches to welcome Jesus into the city the week before he died.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We hear the words of Jesus when he gathered with his disciples the night before he died. In this, his last will and testament, he gives his own body and blood as a gift of love

- P** For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



- P** To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread the spiritual food we receive in Holy Communion is an ancient connection.

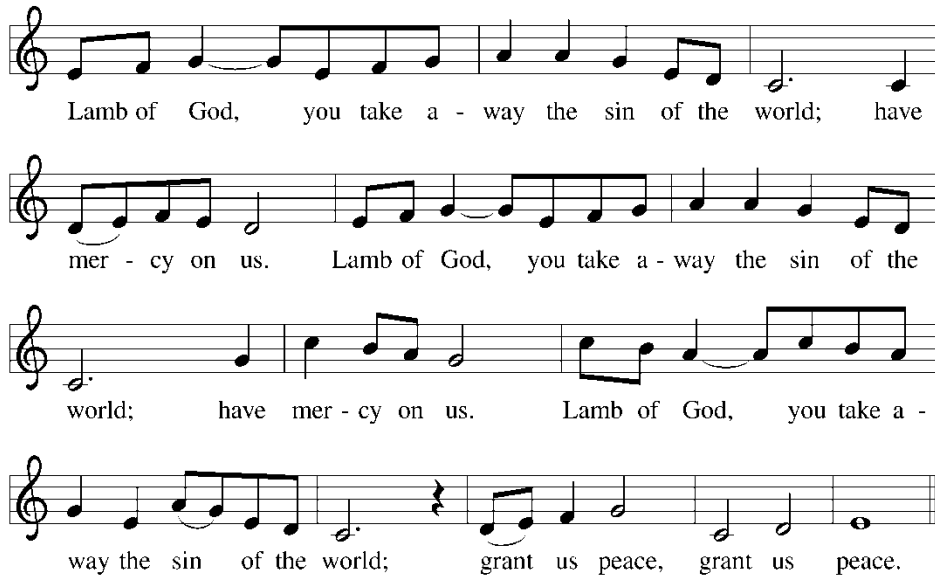
- AI** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

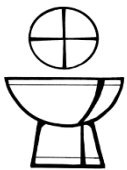
P Welcome to the Lord's Table.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

As we approach the Lord's table, we remember how Jesus revealed himself to his friends by breaking bread with them. In that sacramental action, they recognized him.



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, place your cup in the rack on the table to your right.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

“Here I Am, Lord”



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.
 3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?”
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?”



Refrain
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

SENDING

Having been fed and nurtured at the Lord’s Table, we are sent to be God’s living presence in the world.

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in his grace.

A Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

BLESSING

We receive the blessing of God who goes with us into the ordinary of daily life.

- P** As you go on your way may Christ go with you. May he go before you to show you the way; May he go behind you to encourage you; Beside you to befriend you; Above you to watch over you; And within you to give you peace.

G Amen

- P** Go in peace. Christ lives in you.

G Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

“Abide With Us, Our Savior”



- 1 A - bide with us, our Sav - ior, nor let your mer - cy cease;
2 A - bide with us, our Sav - ior, sus - tain us by your word;
3 A - bide a - mong us al - ways, Lord, with your faith - ful - ness;
4 A - bide with us, our Sav - ior, O Light of end - less light,



from Sa - tan's might de - fend us, and grant our souls re - lease.
that we with all your peo - ple to life may be re - stored.
O Je - sus, leave us nev - er, but help us in dis - tress.
be - stow on us your bless - ings, and save us by your might.

**ALL ARE INVITED FOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**

Proceeds go to support MISSION JAMAICA

grace happens

October 1 - 8, 2023

Sunday, October 1

9:00 am PENTECOST 18
10:15 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST for MISSION JAMAICA

Tuesday, October 3

7:00 pm GriefShare

Wednesday, October 4

7:00 pm Choir

Thursday, October 5

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sunday, October 8

9:00 am PENTECOST 19
10:15 am Adult Bible Study/Sunday School

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:

Last week's Offering	\$4,515.43
YTD Offering	\$232,023.16
YTD Budget	\$249,474.03
YTD Offering vs Budget	(\$17,450.87)

Disclaimer: \$27,325.79 of YTD offering is not for budget use



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

**Sunday mornings
at 10:15 am**

**beginning
Sunday,
September 24**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Featuring video content from  BibleProject

New Tuesday evening group begins
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3
 7:00 - 8:30 pm

GRIEF SHARE

GRIEF RECOVERY
SUPPORT GROUPS

Register at graceofgodlutheran.com
 Or call 651.730.4900

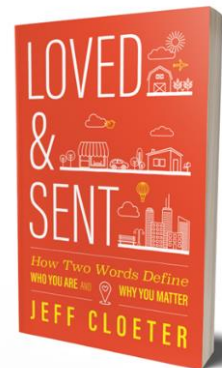
 **GRACE OF GOD**
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
 420 Hayward Avenue North • Oakdale, Minnesota 55128



 **GRACE OF GOD**
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Common Read

READ — REFLECT — DISCUSS — SERVE



Have you ever wondered if who you ARE is who you were MEANT to be?
 Join us as we begin our Love and Sent journey!

Starting this fall you are invited to participate in this journey by reading the book "LOVED and SENT" by Pastor Jeff Cloeter. The book will also be used as the basis for our Grace Group gatherings and discussion. Here's how you can be involved:

- **READ and DISCUSS the book in a GRACE GROUP**

(email grace@graceofgodlutheran.com to get connected to one of our three small groups)

- **READ the book ON YOUR OWN**

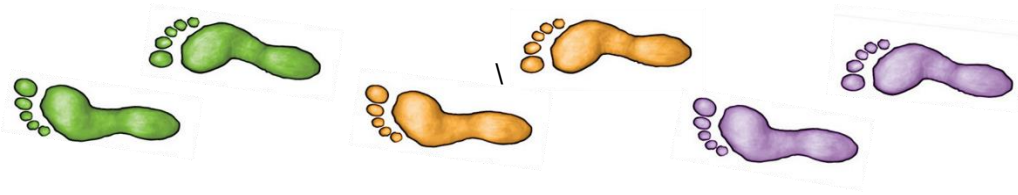
(books are available at the church or can be purchased on Amazon)

- **PARTICIPATE in a SERVICE DAY in January 2024**

(we will volunteer together at three different service organizations in the Twin Cities and meet for potluck supper afterwards!)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NE^xT SUNDAY!

Follow the signs . . .



BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 4-6 pm

SAVE THE DATE!! Our 3rd annual Bethlehem Experience will be Saturday, December 2 - 4 to 6pm.

Mark your calendars! Planning is underway. Would you like to join the fun?

See Cindy Bartz, Pastor Jon or Sally Warren.

wherever you are on your search, you are always welcome at



GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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