# **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR (201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com CAROL WEBER – CANTOR MARY BETH MCFALL – GUEST MUSICIAN

# THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 14, 2022 10 AM



The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

#### VISIT US AT:

#### WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

and

#### **ON FACEBOOK**

#### Welcome to worship! While indoors, please continue to mask and social distance.

#### PRELUDE

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

#### Please stand to face the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross as Pastor begins:

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
- C. Amen.
- P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

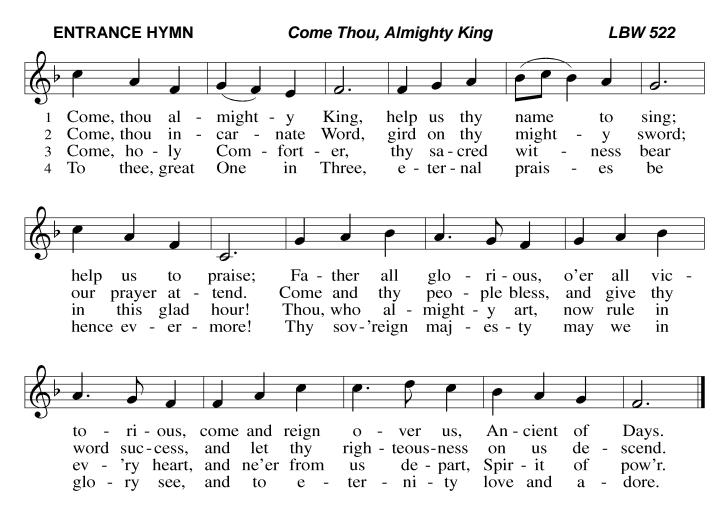
#### Silence is kept for reflection.

- P. Merciful God,
- C. we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors.

#### P. Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.



Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt. Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

#### GREETING

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE** 





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.

#### P. Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C. Amen.

#### Please be seated.

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

A. A reading from Jeremiah, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 82 READ RESPONSIVELY

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled,

giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

#### <sup>2</sup>"How long will you judge unjustly,

and show favor to the wicked?

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan;

defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup>rescue the weak and the poor;

#### deliver them from the power of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup>Now I say to you, 'You are gods,

and all of you children of the Most High;

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' "

<sup>8</sup>Arise, O God, and rule the earth,

for you shall take all nations for your own.

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

#### A. A reading from Hebrews, the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

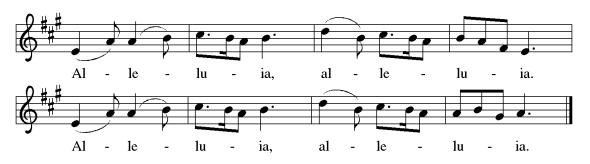
<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

#### Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Congregation sings Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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#### GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

#### P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

#### C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

#### C. Praise to you, O Christ



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Congregation sings Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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#### Please be seated.

#### **Pastor Niederer**

#### Silence for Meditation

#### Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY	Faith of Our Fathers	ELW 813
<b>₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽ ₽</b>		
1 Faith of our fa - 2 Faith of our moth - 3 Faith of our sis - 4 Faith born of God,	, 8 1	- geon, is op - who
		0.
fire, and sword. love re-vealed, press-ion's might, fol - low you,	Oh, how our hearts beat high with spread - ing God's word from pole to rais - ing on high, in pris - ons shar - ing the strug - gle of your <i>Refrain</i>	pole, dark,
		<b>~</b> •
when-e'er we hear mak - ing love known the cross of Christ un - til the world	and free - dom real. Faith of our m still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - d	fa - thers, oth - ers, ay, O dod, O
€ <sup>#</sup> ↓ ₽.		0.
ho - ly faith, ho - ly faith, liv - ing faith, liv - ing faith,	we will betruetoyoutillwe will betruetoyoutillwe will betruetoyoutillwe will betruetoyoutill	death. death. death. death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2–4 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain Text sts. 2–4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Apostles' Creed.

#### **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

#### Julie Buckingham

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

#### A brief silence.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Arise, O God, and sustain our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. In our joy and in our tears, we pray especially for those we name before you in silence or aloud *(pause)*. Be near to them and watch over them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

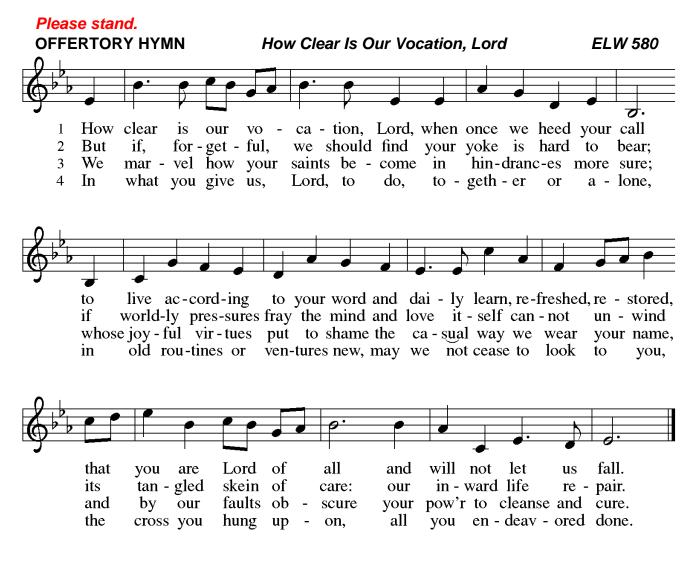
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints (*especially Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk*) who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

- P. Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
- C. Amen.

#### PEACE Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C. And also with you.** 

#### OFFERING Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.



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#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A. Let us pray.

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

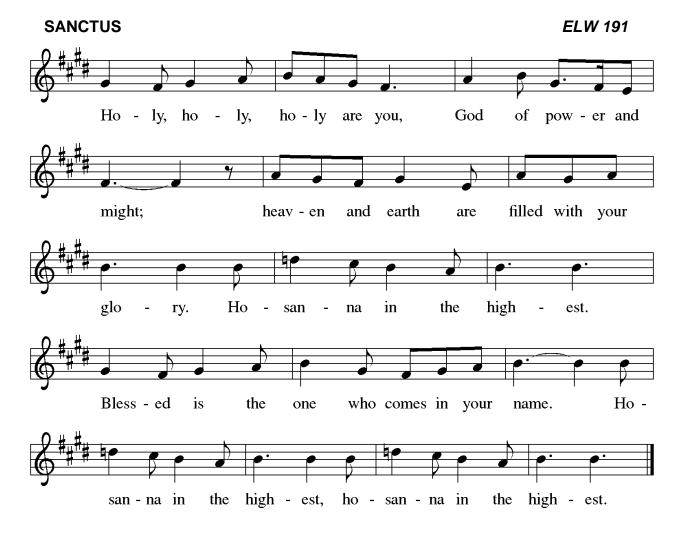
#### C. Amen.

#### THE GREAT 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.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### THE PREFACE

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, 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:



Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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#### Please kneel or be seated.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, Blessed and 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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the mystery of faith;

#### C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Pour out upon us and this bread and cup the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever.
C. Amen.

#### LORDS PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:
- C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
   Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
   Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

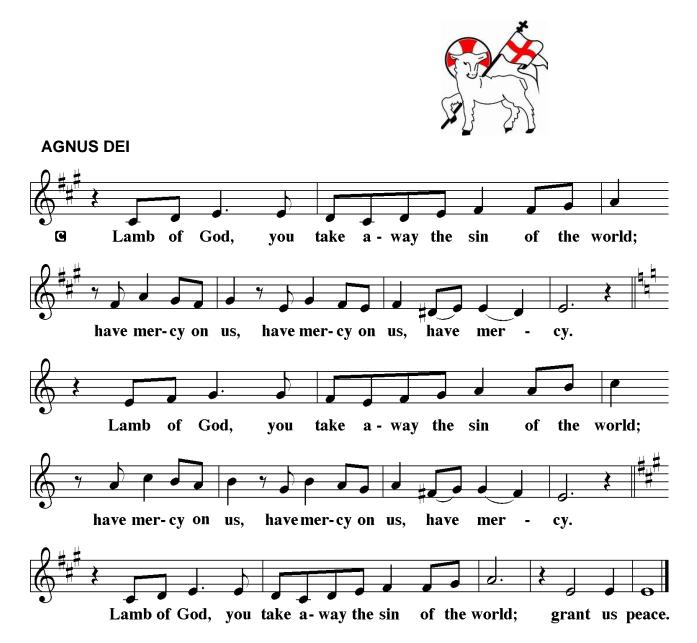
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet where all are welcome.





#### **CONTINUOUS COMMUNION**

#### Please stay seated until the person in front of you has received the wafer. Continue to mask until after you have received the wafer & cup and have stepped away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section. The center contains purple grape juice. White wine is in the remainder of the tray. After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know that you wish to receive a blessing.

#### Please stand.

#### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:**

- P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C. Amen.





#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A. Let us pray:

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.** 

#### BLESSING

- P. The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.
- C. AMEN.

#### Please be seated.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Please stand.



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, early American

#### DISMISSAL

- A. Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE

#### + + + OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Mary Beth McFall, Guest Musician Sue Papera, Greeter Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader Julie Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



MEALS TO HELP FEED THE CHILDREN OF HAITI Bring Your Ideas... PACKATHON PLANNING MEETING At Grace in Memorial Room Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM



At Grace in Memorial Room Wednesday, August 17, at 1:30 PM

### PAUSED IN AUGUST: TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY BIBLE STUDIES



## Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 21

If you need a Pastor during this time Please contact Pastor Lisa Holliday (Trinity, Bogota) 201- 487-3576 or 201-768-9511

+ + +

#### PRAYERS

Carol Weber; Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe recovering from a brain aneurism (Carol's cousin); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom), and Frank Borowski (Katie's dad), and aunt; Enrique Perez (Jack's father-in-law); Marc Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's son); Melanie M. (Julie's friend); Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Nancy McCabe (Lynn's sister-in-law who has COPD); Nancy Galya (Lynn's former coworker); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Ron Barlotta (Sue's sister's brother-in-law being treated for cancer); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with heath issues); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Kathy Obtain (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Arline A. (Mary Ellen's friend with metastatic cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; Dan and John Steffen (Lorli's brothers with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Caridad (Rosa's aunt); Jael (Rosa's cousin); Gerry Schlask (health concerns); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Tom (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (health concerns); Erika Ilgenfritz (preparing for surgery); Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Rev. Sarah & Joan (friends of Anita & Harold who are facing difficult health problems including cancer); Mary Lewis (Fred's sister-in-law following back surgery); the people of Ukraine, Russia, and Afghanistan and those who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health experts, national and regional officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

#### Please let Pastor or Lynn Buckingham know of needed changes to prayer list.



#### **COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK**

# Maximilian Kolbe, who died 1941, and Kaj Munk, who died 1944: both martyrs Sunday, August 14, 2022

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

# Mary, Mother of Our Lord

#### Monday, August 15, 2022

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title Theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

#### Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153 Saturday, August 20, 2022

### Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

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