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

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 24, 2022 10 AM



Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

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

PRELUDE

Vater unser im Himmelreich (Our Father in Heaven)

Georg Böhm

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.

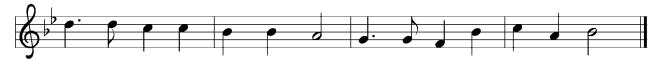
C. Amen.



- 1 O pen now thy gates of beau-ty, Zi on, let me en ter there,
- 2 Gra cious God, I come be fore thee; come thou al so un to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in-crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di-vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer. where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, how - so-e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



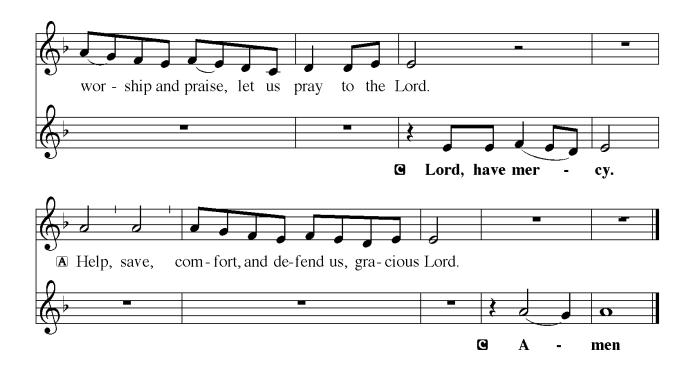
Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace! To my heart, oh, thou, let it be thy tem - ple now! en - ter that all hear may be fruit - ful un - to life SO in me. guid-ing star through life, my com-fort all strife. as my as in Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

A. A reading from Genesis, the 18th Chapter beginning with the 20th verse.

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." 30Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." 31He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered. "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." 32Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

A. The Word of God. The Word of life. **C**

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 READ RESPONSIVELY

- ¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- ³When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

A. A reading from Colossians, the 2nd Chapter beginning with the 6th verse.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.1

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 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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Cantor Verse:

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and I you will find, knock, and the door will be o- I pened to you. (Luke 11:9)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

- P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 11th Chapter beginning with the 1st verse.
- C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

- ³Give us each day our daily bread.
- ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- P. The Gospel of the Lord.
- C. Praise to you, O Christ

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 438 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright

- Lord, teach us how to pray a right, with rev 'rence and with fear.
- per ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant pow'r to pray. us
- Give deep hu mil i ty; the sense of god ly Faith in the on ly sac ri fice that can for sor - row give;
- Faith in for sin a - tone:
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es your sight, we may, we must draw near. in pre - pare, Lord, meet us And when to meet you we on our way. strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live; a cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone. to and your Son, shall pray, and pray we, through your Spir - it

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Music: SONG 67, Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625





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

Lynn Buckingham

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

A brief silence.

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for 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.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer especially for those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. 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.**

Please stand.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abridged; tr. hymnal version Music: VATER UNSER, V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

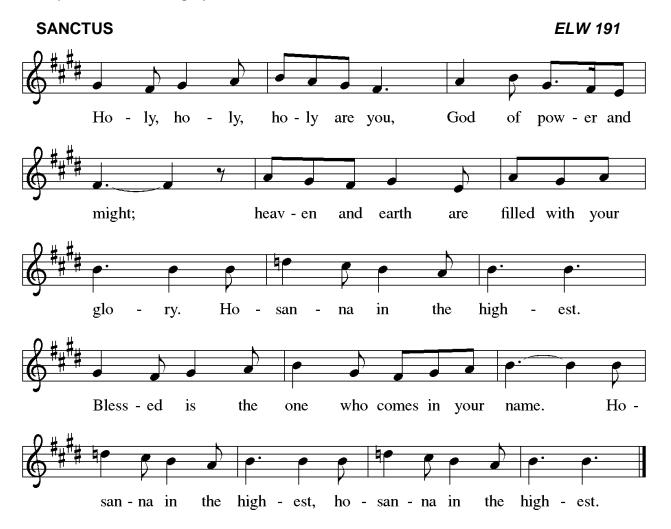
God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **C. Amen.**

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
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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.

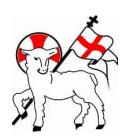
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

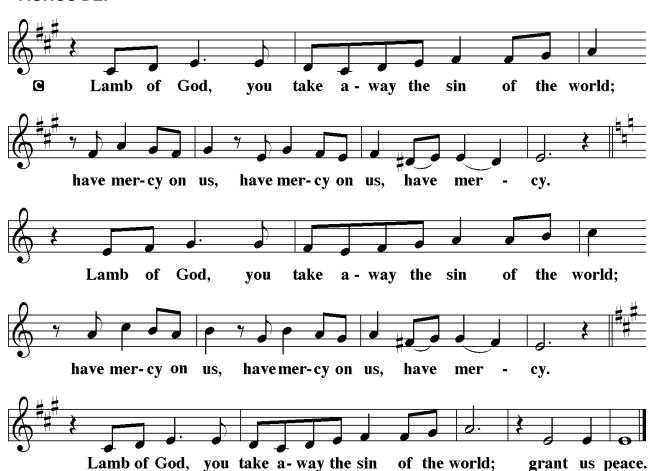
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Come to the banquet where all are welcome.



AGNUS DEI





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.

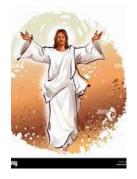
After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

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.**

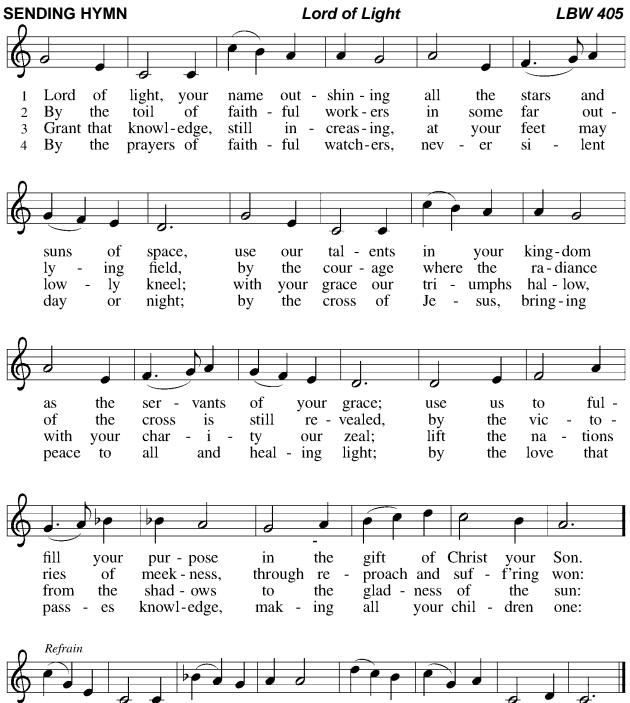
BLESSING

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





Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Fa - ther, as

in

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © Union of Welsh Independents
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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SO

on

earth your will be done.

high-est heav-en,

DISMISSAL

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

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE Fantasy in C Major, BWV 570

Johann Sebastian Bach

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Fred Lewis, Greeter
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Lynn Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession
Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



This Afternoon Homeless Meal Delivery.



Thursday Bible Studies Paused for the summer. Will resume in September.



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); Susan (Lorli's sister-in-law); 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

James and John, disciples of Jesus

Monday, July 25, 2022

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. James was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians

Thursday, July 28, 2022

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany Friday, July 29, 2022

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030 Friday, July 29, 2022

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

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