GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666
(201) 836-0994
THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR
(201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com
KAREN BARTHOLOMEW – GUEST ORGANIST

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025 10 AM



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

And on Facebook

Welcome to worship!

Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

old Gaelic melody "Bunessan" Arr. Charles Callahan

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand and face the baptismal font near the entrance of the church.

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, who is the Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.



- Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, the dark - ness now is old who
- We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the
- Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take
- Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished 'a - way; yearn for your face; bread of new birth, light years a - way—

see in this space our fears and our dream-ings we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry, here you shall call your here in this place the sons and your daugh-ters, new light is shin - ing,



the brought here light of this day. to you in be light the whole hu called to to man race. call to be salt for the earth. us a - new king - dom, and the day. now is the now is



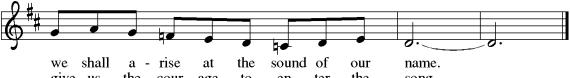
Gath-er in, the lost and for - sak - en, the us gath-er us in, Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the Give us the wine of com-pas-sion, the to drink give us to eat hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us in and gath-er in and us



blind and the lame; proud and the strong; bread that is you; make us your own;

call to us now, and give us a heart, SO nour-ish well, and us gath - er us in, all

we shall a - wak - en, meek and so low - ly, teach us to fash-ion peo-ples to-geth-er,



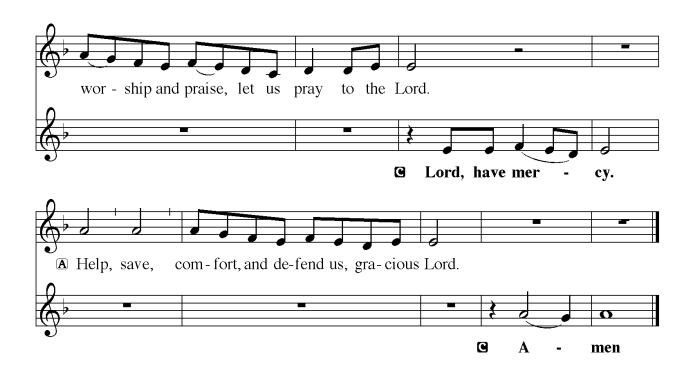
give us the cour - age en - ter the to song. lives that ho - ly are and hearts that true. are fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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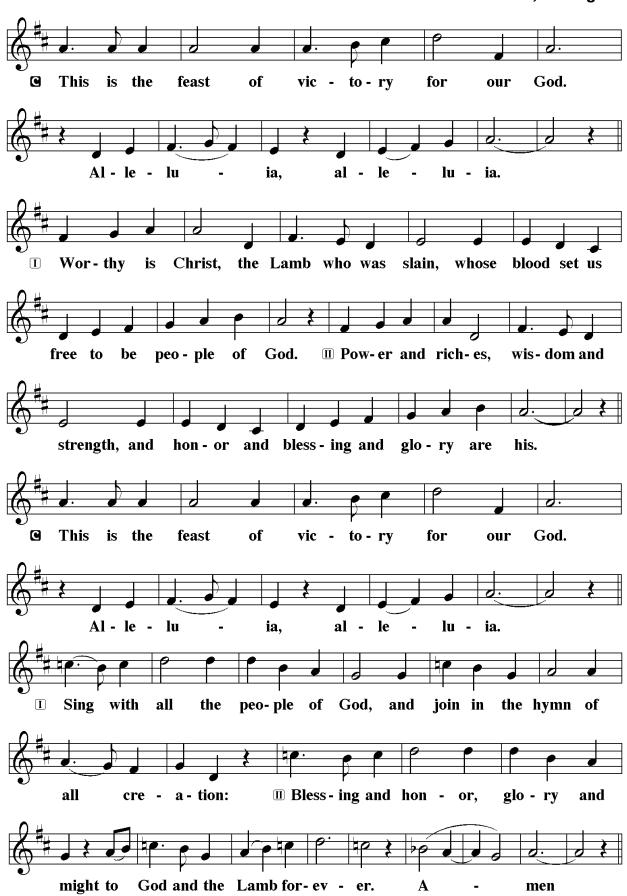
GREETING

- 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.











PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

- A. A reading from Proverbs, the 25th Chapter.
 - ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great;

 ⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112 READ RESPONSIVELY

- ¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶For they will never be shaken;
 - the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

A. A reading from Hebrews, the 13th Chapter.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁵So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

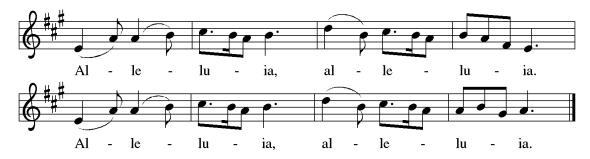
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Sung by Congregation 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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ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 14th Chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

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SERMON Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.



- 1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in to wit-ness in the sac ra ment of life; 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife. where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own; Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave; There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known. may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save. as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
He ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING & RENEWAL

P. We give you thanks, O God, source of life and health, for in Jesus you became flesh and came to know the depth of human suffering. You sent the disciples to heal those who were sick.

We ask that you bless us now as we remember our baptism that we may be healed, strengthened, and renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. As we mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross, we proclaim the good news that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ offering ourselves, whatever our sickness of spirit, mind, or body may be, to receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, may you be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of God's Spirit.

C. Amen.

Remembering your baptism, make the sign of the cross on your forehead as Pastor says:

P. Remember your baptism and receive the sign of forgiveness and healing in Christ Jesus by making the sign of the cross on your forehead.

C. Amen.

P. Let us pray.

God of mercy, source of all healing, we give you thanks for your gifts of strength and life, and especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the health and salvation of the world.

Help us by your Holy Spirit to feel your healing power in our lives and experience your eternal love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

HEALING HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

WOV 737



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;





- 1 Some times I feel dis cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can not preach like Pe ter, if you can not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev er be dis cour-aged, for Je sus is your friend;



but then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual



Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

For members of congregations, synods, and churchwide, we pray. Continue to strengthen and guide 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 the Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, struggle to make ends meet or experience discrimination. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who are ill or suffering, we pray. Bring comfort and care to all who are struggling as a result of illness, loss, or violence, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

- P. Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
- C. Amen. 14 -

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Now We Join in Celebration

LBW 203



- 1 Now we join in cel e bra tion at our Sav ior's in vi ta tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath er, fill our hearts with ho ly rap ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com-mu-nion as one fam-'ly of God's chil-dren,



dressed no more in spir-it som-ber, clothed in-stead in joy and won - der; For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess - ing rec - on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence, of your lov-ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry, Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang-ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us. pledge of your un - fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad - ness. seek - ing jus-tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Creator God.

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

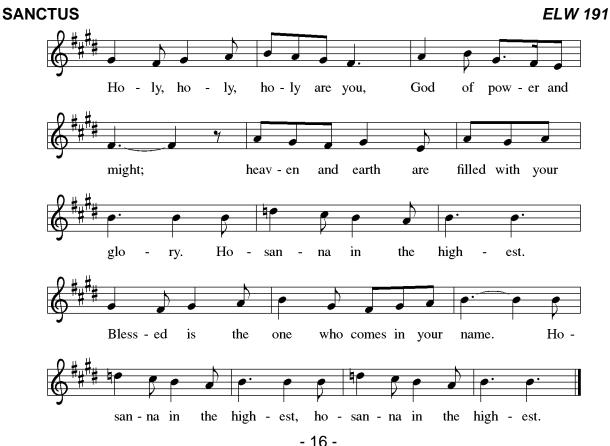
C. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C. And also with you.
- C. We lift them 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:



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.

THE LORD'S 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.

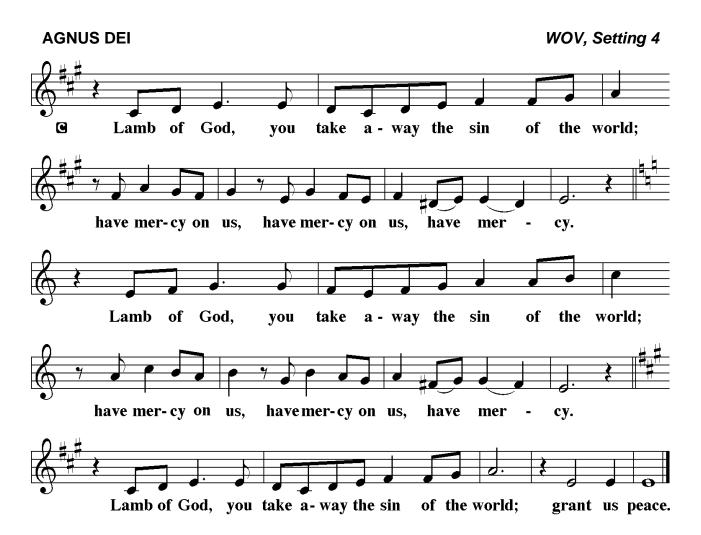
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Come to the banquet where all are welcome.







CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step 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 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:

Mothering God,

you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

- P. May the love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.
- C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shoe Collection

(ends Oct 24th)

To assist global need. See Sue Papera for details.

Please stand.

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

LBW 259



- 1 Lord, dis miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion for your gos pel's joy ful sound.
- 3 Sav ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound. let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness. Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found. May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fanfare Jacques Lemmens

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Karen Bartholomew, Guest Organist
Fred Lewis, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Sue Papera, Liturgist & Reader
Zulema Suarez, Prayers of Intercession
Sue Papera, & Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



After Mass Today

Refreshments in the Memorial Room



August Birthdays

Pastor Peggy
Wishing everyone with a birthday this month many blessings!!!
May God's face shine upon you all the days of your lives!

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Labor Day Weekend!



In Memorial Room at Grace Wednesday, September 3rd, at 1:30 PM



Via Zoom Thursday, September 4th, at Noon

Biblical Understanding of Prayer & The Early Christian Traditions

Connection link & readings will be emailed



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Doris Baumann, Dale Lambson, and Family; Darla Lambson (leukemia); Brad Gohmann (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: Donald Lazlear and his family, Katie and Surella Borowski; Rose Davis (cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: Arlene Rizzo (cancer) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (health concerns); Caleb (mental health issues); Jenny L. (health issues); Carol Mulvaney (breast cancer); Michael Mulvaney (prostate cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: Janet Thalmann; Paul Thalmann; Beverly Philip (severe dementia), Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz (health concerns), Michele Rusciano; Al & Mark Crovatto; Anita Bontekoe (health concerns), Hana Kim (health concerns); Ben Bontekoe (health concerns); Fred Lewis (health concerns); Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever; Dominick Capalba (6 year old with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents - memory care); John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); Judy Letwink (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); Betty Ann Lindhurst (Lorli's friend with health issues); Gisela N. (Lorli's friend with bladder cancer); Erika Ilgenfritz (health concerns); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Friends of the congregation: Arouss Darpinian (health concerns); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Nancy Barbee (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); Donna Maxwell (recovering from hip surgery); James Mingo (Donna's grandson with health concerns); Mary Sue Kaplow (health concerns): Gail Storero (recovering from shoulder surgery): (baby) Chris (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & Bob Wheeler; Jeanne H. (Lorli's sister with health issues); Krystyna Kirsch; Alison (Ali) Krasnow & Family; the hostages in Gaza: Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan, and organizations and individuals who are providing resources, care, and relief for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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