GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 9, 2024



A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

VISIT US AT:
WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG
and
on Facebook

Welcome to worship!

Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE

Aus tiefer Not

Samuel Scheidt (Out of the Depths) Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau **Gerald Near**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,

the God of manna,

the God of miracles,

the God of mercy.

- C. Amen.
- P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P. God, our provider,
- C. help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways

of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P. Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,

you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

There is always more than enough.

you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C. Amen.



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

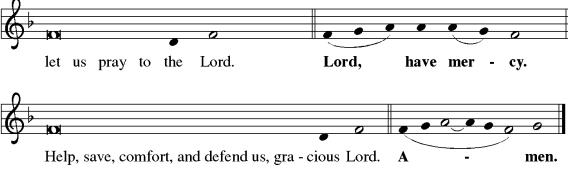
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

Text and music @ 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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: This Is the Feast of Victory





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P. Let us pray.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Genesis 3:8-15

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

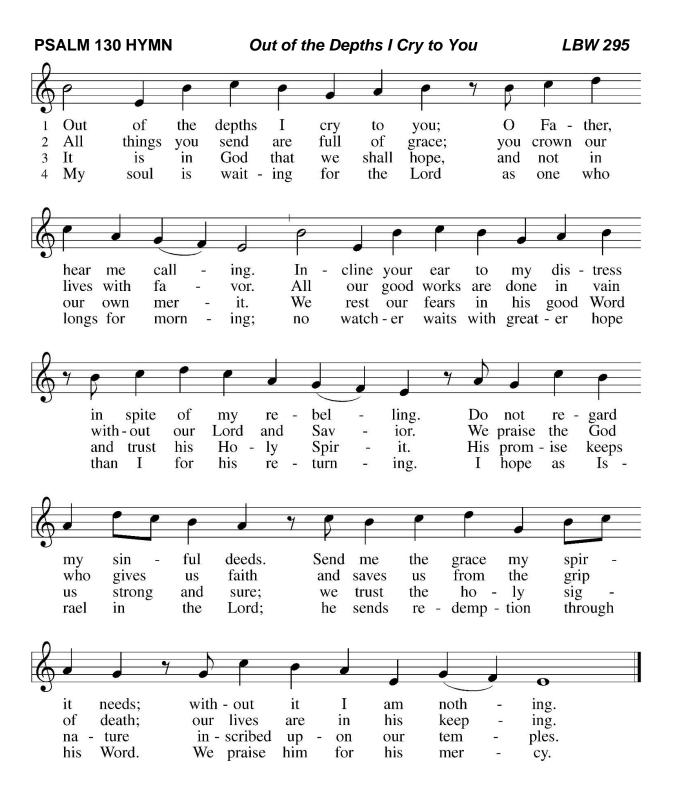
A. A reading from Genesis, the 3rd chapter.

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

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



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

A. A reading from 2nd Corinthians, the 4th & 5th chapters.

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ALL SING:



Music: Plainsong mode VI

Choir Verse:

The ruler of this world will be driven out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw all people I to myself. (John 12:31, 32)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Mark 3:20-35

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Mark, the 3rd chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

- 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



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546 - 10 -



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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who 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 to the dead.
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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Sue Papera

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

You reawaken our hearts to your mercy. We give you thanks for the renewers of the church in every age (*especially Columba, Aiden, and Bede whom we commemorate today*). Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to transform the church into a closer vision of your beloved community. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your presence is revealed in the shade of trees, the growth of seeds into flowers, and in the blessing of plants granting food in their right season. Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence. 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.**

Our nations and communities are divided, O God. Teach us again to listen with curiosity and mercy, even in disagreement. Grant us the humility to acknowledge our hardness of heart and make us bold in modeling cooperation for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness, especially those being persecuted for their faith, the hostages being held in Gaza and every place where innocent people are being held against their will, and those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless and strengthen organizations and individuals who work on their behalf. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and clarity to all who are in seasons of discernment and transition: high school and college graduates preparing for first jobs or new educational journeys, those who are shifting careers, and those who are navigating changes in their relationships. Accompany them with your peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for our ancestors in faith who believed, spoke, and lived in you. Give us confidence that as Jesus was raised, so we too will be raised, with all the saints, into your everlasting presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

- P. Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.
- C. Amen.

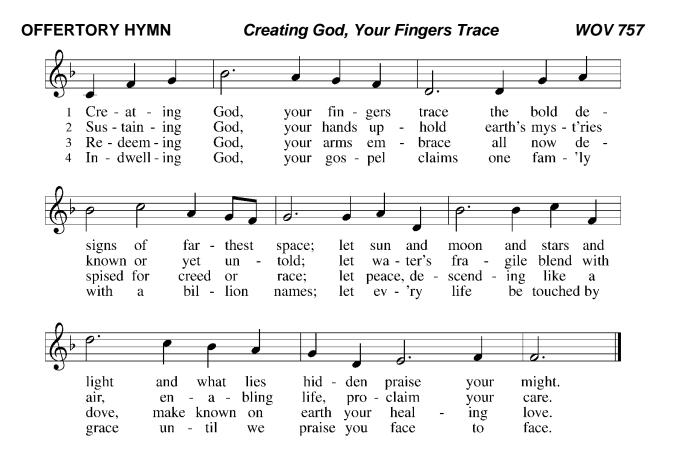
PEACE Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

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



Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: DUNEDIN, Vernon Griffiths, 1894-1985

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Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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.

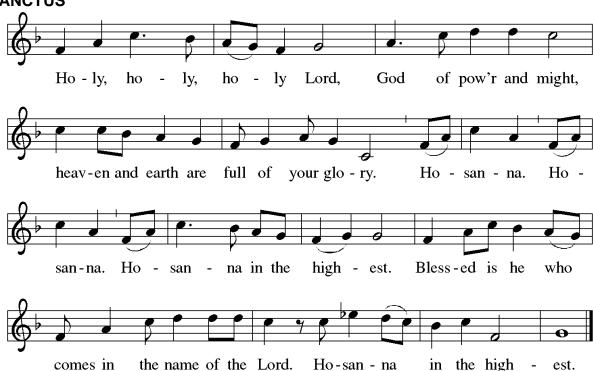
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus who is the Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or be seated.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus 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.

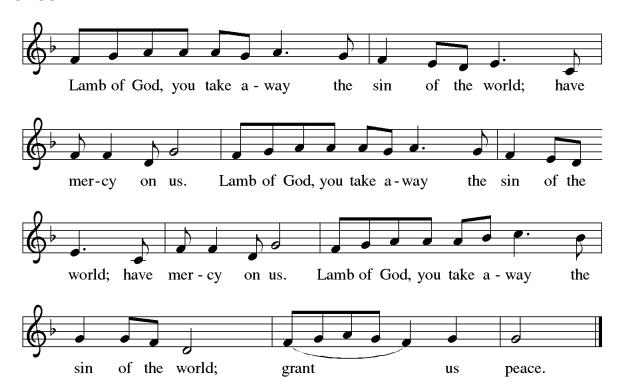
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come to the table where all are welcome!

AGNUS DEI





CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, 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 CANTICLE

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray:

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

- P. Now may the blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever.
- C. AMEN.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

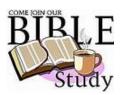
DISMISSAL

- A. Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE A Mighty Fortress John Leavitt

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Kaitlin Shinholster, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Sue Papera, Prayers of Intercession
Lynn Buckingham and Janet Thalmann, Altar Guild



Via Zoom Thursday, June 13th, at Noon

Pentecost & The Early MIssionaries Readings & Connection link will be emailed

2024 - 2025



"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and replentish it..."

Genesis 1:28

Care of God's Creation is a huge issue — but sometimes when faced with more immediate and material problems like the housing crisis or poverty, it can be easy to set it on the back burner. Alternatively, sometimes considering the enormous scope of climate justice is so overwhelming and dispiriting to advocates that it can be hard to even know where to start — and we may find it much easier to turn our attention to issues that feel more manageable and closer to home, like feeding the hungry in our community.

Unfortunately, the effects of the climate crisis (recovery of God's creation) are becoming more and more immediate and material every year. New Jersey has been called "ground zero" for climate change in the Mid-Atlantic, due to the drastic effects that warming temperatures have on our state. Drought warnings have been lasting considerably longer in recent years, increasing temperatures could lead to more heat-related hospitalizations and deaths. Severe weather events are occurring more frequently, and sea levels along the Jersey Shore are expected to rise up to 1 foot by the end of the decade...Environmental risks affect housing stability in our state, especially along the coast. The climate affects our state's agricultural production and food supply, which affects food security...

This year's Bishop's Challenge asks all NJ congregations to engage with the care of creation by forming a team or small group and choosing at least one new action that focuses on environmental sustainability.

To learn more, go to https://www.njsynod.org/bishopschallenge

PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Carol Weber: Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe (Carol's cousin with vision issues); Darla Lambson (Carol's sister's sister-in-law, suffering from an aggressive form of leukemia); Brad Gohmann and his family (Carol's nephew's uncle-in-law with cancer); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom); Rose Davis (Surella's friend with cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's children); Leslyn Cooke; Melanie M. (Julie's friend); The cousin-in-law of Julie's coworker, undergoing rehab for injuries sustained in an automobile accident; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with health issues); Carol Mulvaney (Sue's friend with breast cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery, father of Nancy who does the payroll for Grace); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Beverly Philip (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law with severe dementia); Kathy O'Brien (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Bert Maltz (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law. Several health concerns); Michele Rusciano (a friend of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Dominick Capalba (Mary Ellen's 6 year old friend with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (Mary Ellen's sister with terminal lung cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Doris Feirer (a friend of the congregation); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Charlie and Mary Lewis (Fred's brother and sister-in-law with health concerns); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); James Mingo (grandson to Donna Maxwell: health concerns); Arouss Darpinian (friend of the congregation with health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); Mary Sue (health concerns): Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents); (baby) Hannah Muñiz (a hospice patient where Jack works); Chris & Sara (parents-tobe) and Dominick (unborn great-nephew to Donna Gentile); Michael Sofia (Friends of Gisela with health concerns) and his wife, Barbara; (citizens imprisoned in Russia: Paul Whelan (in prison for over six years) and Evan Gershkovich (a Wall Street Journalist detained since March 29, 2023); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine; Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan; Sudan; organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers, national and regional relief officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Recently transitioned to heaven: Gilberto Gillen, Uncle to Surella Borowski and Zulema Suarez. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord. Let your perpetual light shine upon him. Love, sympathy, and prayers are being offered to the family.

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



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church Sunday, June 9, 2024

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter.

Barnabas, Apostle

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys.

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Friday, June 14, 2024

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

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