

PRAYER SERVICE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God loves you all the time
And all the time God loves you.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW 834



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: for the peace from above, and for our salvation, for the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, for this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,**

nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel of Matthew beginning in the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’

²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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 into hell.

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*).

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*).

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*).

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as 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.**

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Artwork by Katie Zunino based on gospel lesson

BLESSING

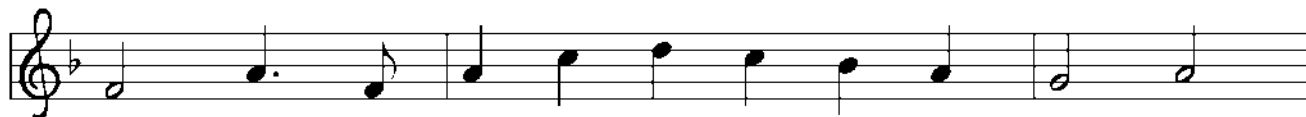
Mothering God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Prayers of the Faithful for week of September 13, 2020

TODAY we pray for:

The King family -welcome baby Olivia Grace born August 24 to Justin and Ashley
Thanksgiving for Helen & family recovery from COVID-19
Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez
Pat Corrigan—mother of Diane Teig
For all those in our hearts and minds today.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Alexis (Ford) Ward & family
Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke
Kyle, diagnosed with Coronavirus.
Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck
Vera Wagenfuhr
For Leslie, friend of Diane Teig.
For Jack Baskow
For Claudia and Geof Bromfield who are dealing with health issues.
MacKenzi Simons (14yr old with Coronavirus)
Connie and family
Scott Wycoff
The Fenner family
John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur
Mike Goyda
Lis Verbeck
Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, Lou Ellen Machin, Evelyn Pettit,
Dick Johnson, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, John Maurer, Bob Waller,
Bill & Barbie Monaghan, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire
Schoening, Moira & Ed, Tyler, Eloise, Rich, Nancy & Mike Schuster, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl
For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh
For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones
For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;
For the congregation of Hope Lutheran, New Castle as they prepare for their new pastor.
For all pastors and church leaders as they care.
For our country, the United States and leaders and citizens.
For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the Covid19 virus.

To request or change prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481) or email the office@gmail.com.

Celebration of Ministry

We pray today for the ministries of Grace. As we begin our sixth year of Pastor Tara among us, let us pray for all who work, serve and worship here.

We celebrate the 5th anniversary of our joint ministry during the Zoom Coffee Hour today.
Please Join us! Congregational Life Ministry

Announcements for September 13

COFFEE & CONNECT starts at 10:00am on Zoom

Join the Congregation on your computer or phone.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?pwd=VW5Vb25JanJNjdRK2hkRnZQZVpKdz09>

Use the following:

Meeting ID: 891 8454 0007

Password: Connect

by Phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099 or 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 891 8454 0007

Password: 5655226

Please mute or unmute your phone by toggling #6

+

- **Worship News for September 20th In-Person worship**

As we continue to prepare for our first in-person worship since March at 8:30 AM on September 20th (and our first livestream service ever!), there are a few reminders and updates that will be in the weekly news.

1. Due to social distancing requirements you will need to register to attend worship.
–the link for registration will be in the weekly news each week,
you can register online (Grace website) or call the office (302-239-6481).
2. Grace has a limit on how many people can be in the sanctuary at one time.
If for some reason we receive more registrations than we can accommodate, we will need to contact those who registered after the limit has been reached and request that they worship from home.
3. Masks are required in the church building when you come for worship and please maintain social distance (the seating has already been arranged to accommodate distancing in the sanctuary).
4. Also, at this time there will be music but not hymns, we will wish one another the peace but not move to shake hands, and while we surely share affection and fellowship for one Another, we will not be able to greet one another and share coffee within the Narthex following the service.

Grace Sunday School Starts September 13th Online

With safety in mind for all of our families, Sunday School classes are beginning online via Zoom. Teachers will be reaching out to their students this week with links to virtual classrooms. Access to virtual Adult Sunday School will continue to be available through the Grace Coffee & Connect link published each week in "News for Your Week". If you know of a child who is not registered for Sunday School this year or if you have questions, please reach out to Jane at jandifoskett@aol.com. Thank you to all of our volunteer teachers and helpers for keeping our Grace family connected during the pandemic!

- 10:00AM—separate classes for Confirmation (Grades 6, 7, 8). Grades 4&5 and Pre-K.
- 11:00AM—separate classes for Adults, K-3 and High School (high school will start later in Sept)

Join us on September 13th as we begin a study of 1 & 2 Corinthians with Jeremy Magoon

We will begin a Bible study on these letters of Paul using the Book of Faith series. The class will meet via Zoom at 11 AM on Sunday mornings following Grace Coffee and Connect. The scripture passages for this series are below and will be updated on which passage is the class studying each week.

1. *Whose am I?* 1 Corinthians 1: 1-30
2. *What Then Am I?* 1 Corinthians 3: 1- 4: 5
3. *It's Not All About Me?* 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20& 10: 23-33
4. *What Am I Good For?* 1 Corinthians 12: 1-31
5. *What Will I Be Ultimately?* 1 Corinthians 15: 12-28, 35-58
6. *How Do I Achieve This Glory?* 2 Corinthians 3: 1- 4: 15
7. *What Can I Do Here and Now?* 2 Corinthians 4: 16- 5: 21
8. *What Is My Response to God's Grace?* 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15 & 9: 1-15

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Rev. David Wasgatt, Pastor Emeritus

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