

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 6, 2026
10:00am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P God loves you all the time.
C **All the time God loves you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever.
C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

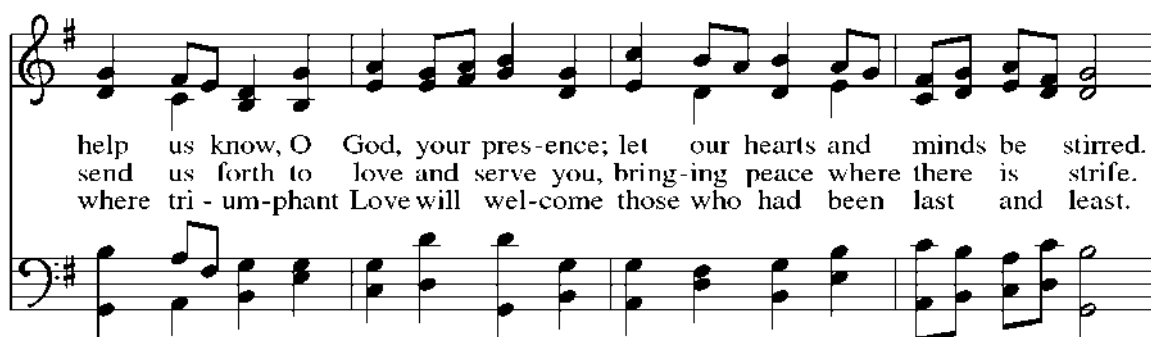
P Compassionate God,
C **we confess to you all our sins.**
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest." In the name of God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

C **Amen.**



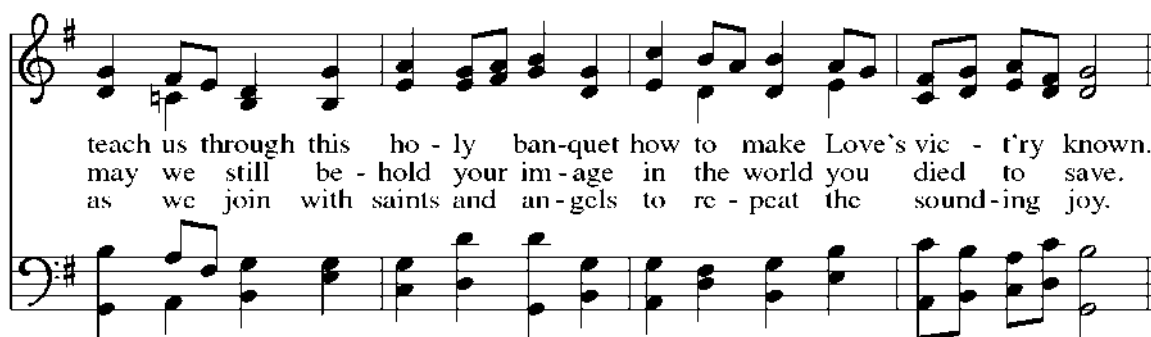
1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



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.

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.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

please be seated

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 119: 33-40

read responsively

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

P The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Gather Together

Kremser

Please stand at the last verse as you are able.



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; He
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Whose
 3. We all do ex - tol you, our lead - er tri - um - phant, And



1. chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known; The
 2. king - dom calls all to the love which en - dures. So
 3. pray that you still our de - fend - er will be. Let



1. wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing: Sing
 2. from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning: You,
 3. your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion: Your



1. prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 2. Lord, were at our side; all — glo - ry be yours!
 3. name be ev - er praised! O — Lord, make us free!

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us profess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*Thank you so much for your support of Grace ministry through your worship.
If you wish to make a donation to Grace, you can follow this link www.glcde.org or scan the
QR code to make a donation on our website through the "GIVE" button in the upper right
corner. You can also make a donation by placing your gift in our offering plates
located inside both sanctuary doors.*



OFFERTORY

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with some phrases repeated at the end.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of
your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Presider: *Congregation:*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

- P *It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his humble way of service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*



P You are indeed holy, Gracious and merciful God: everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation.

Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation, and peace.

On the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
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.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Pastor sings: Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

Congregation:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come, come a - gain.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Remembering his command, to love one another,
his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension,
we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

Pastor sings: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that all of your promises may come to us
and your whole creation.

Pastor sings: Amen. Come Holy Spirit. Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

world:
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION



Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Come down the center aisle and take a spot at the rail in front of your section furthest to the right and fill in from there, and receive the communion elements. After receiving communion, please return your cup to the bowl at the head of the side aisles and return to your seat. Elements at in-person worship are red wine and white grape juice. All bread is gluten-free.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus ELW 802

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath,
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ec - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

O God beyond All Praising ELW 880



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



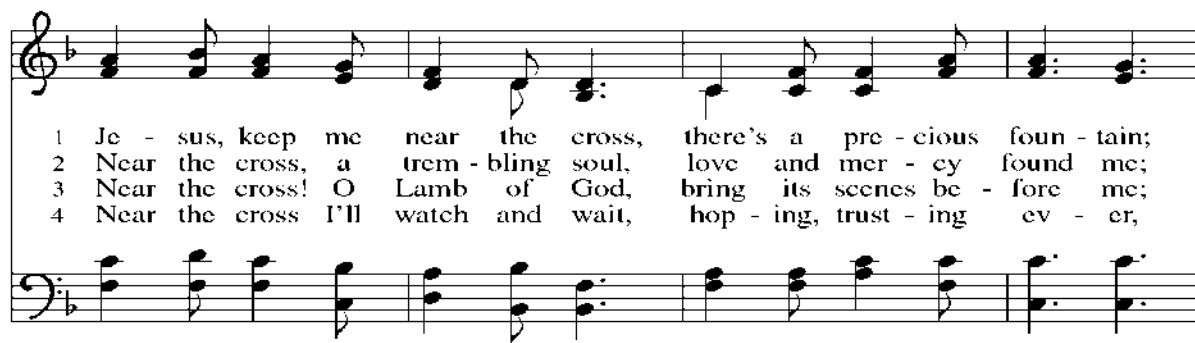
we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



Refrain
In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

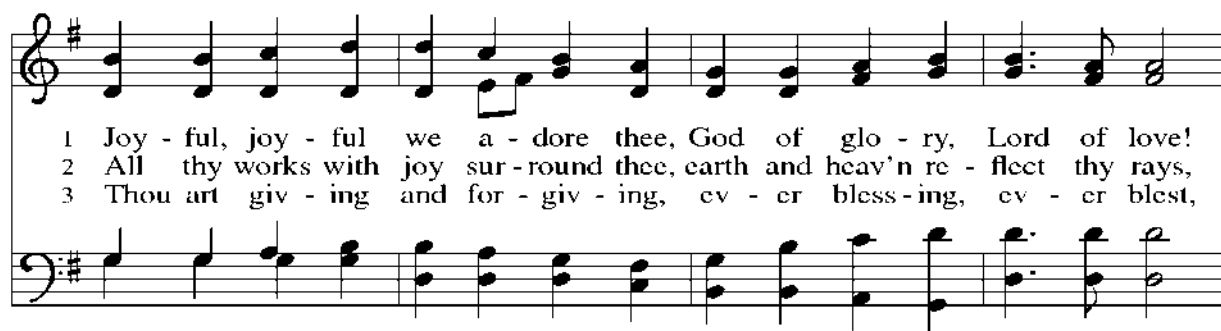
POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. C Amen.

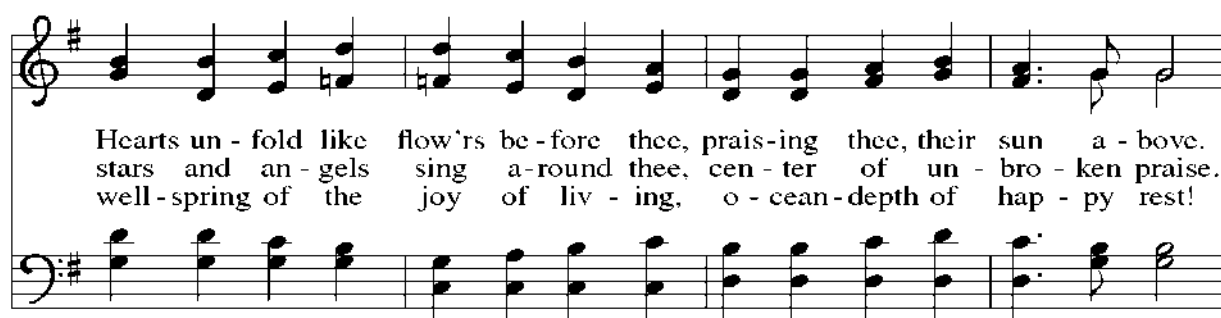
BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God,
 bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God.**



**Sunday, September 6 we welcome
Sue Fuhrman as guest organist**

*The altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God
by Lynda Martinez
in honor of the 15th anniversary of Rejoicing Spirits.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Jean Warren

Greeter: Jay Snyder

Ushers: Beth Fenner, Larry Matchen

Reader: Penny Matchen

Sound: Paul Warren

Streamer: Paul Warren

Nursery: Audrey Day, John Day

Refreshments: Pam Adams, Beth Fenner

Offering Counters: Bill Brizendine, Beth Fenner

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOCKESSIN DE

2033 Graves Road

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

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