

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 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, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

P Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through , + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but
only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C **Amen.**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

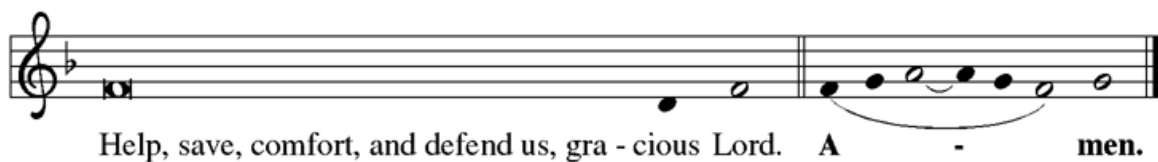
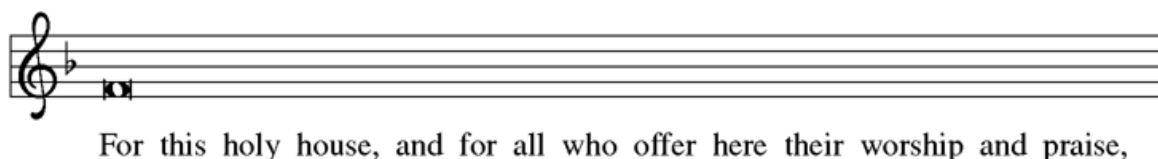
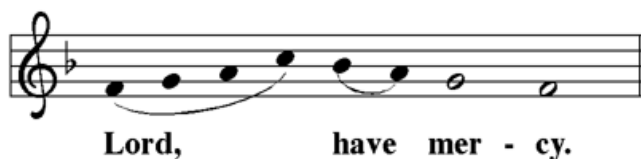
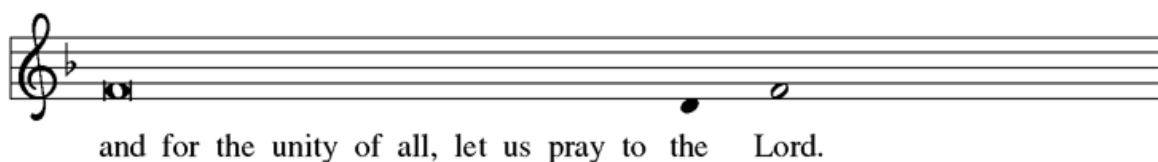
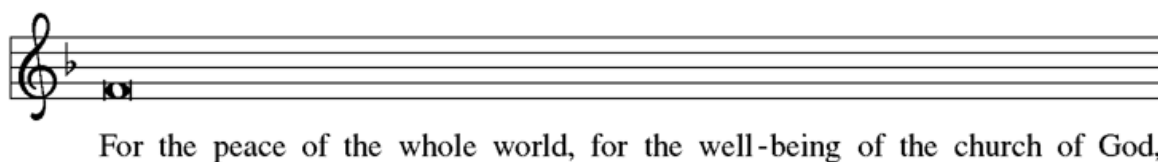
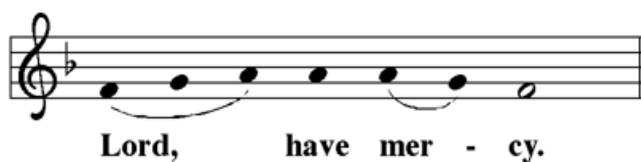
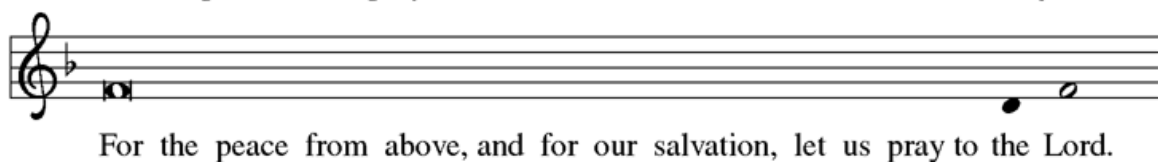
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

please be seated

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing 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?" ¹⁶ So 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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even 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. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 103:8-13

read responsively

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

⁹ **you 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.

¹¹ **For 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.

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

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those 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. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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.

⁵ Some 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. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why 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. ¹¹ For it is written,

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

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus 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. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But 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.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Please stand at the last verse as you are able.

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those 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.**

P Let us share God's peace.

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.



ANTHEM

Psalm 141 from Holden Evening Prayer

M. Haugen

(words on back page)

OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make
us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
- C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

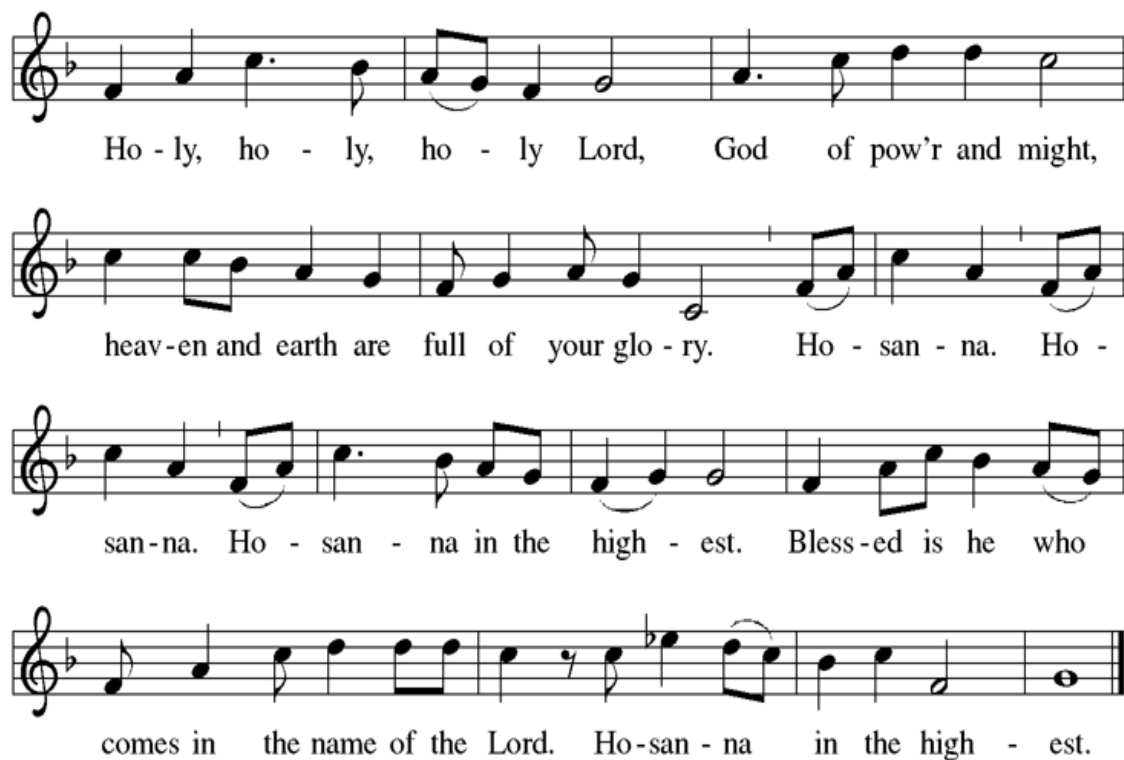
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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:*



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
 that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
 Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that
 we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
 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.

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.

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 Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
All are welcome at the table of the Lord

You may be seated

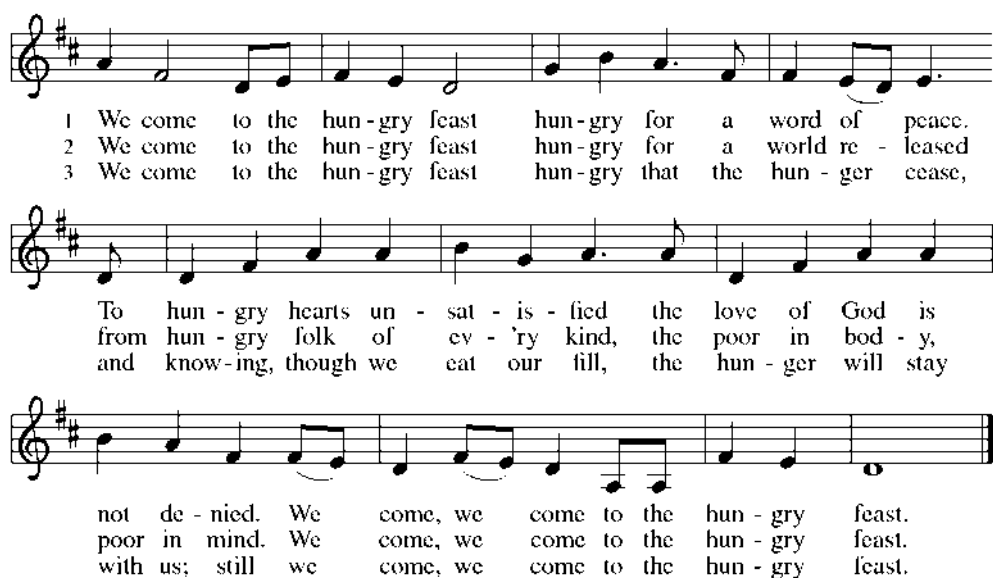


COMMUNION

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

We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479

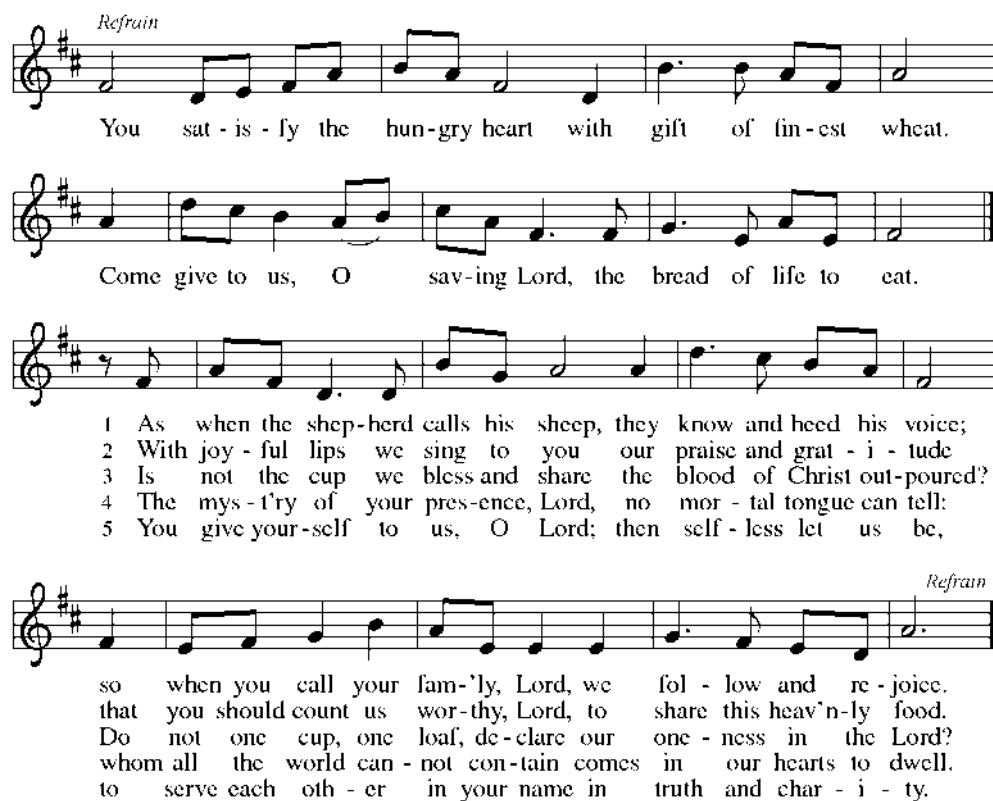


1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,
 To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay
 not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Gift of Finest Wheat ELW 484

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.
 Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.
 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,
Refrain
 so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C **Amen.**



BLESSING

P The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ☉ bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

VERSE

C G Em

1. Ev 'ry-one needs com-pas - sion, love that's nev - er fail - ing. Let
2. So take me as You find me, all my fears and fail - ures.

4 D C G

mer - cy fall on me. Ev-'ry-one needs for-give - ness, the kind - ness of a Sav -
Fill my life a - gain. I give my life to fol - low, ev-'ry - thing I be-lieve

CHORUS

7 Em D C D C D G

- iour. The hope of na-tions. Sav-iour, He can move the
in. Now I sur-ren-der.

12 D C G Em D G

moun-tains. My God is might-y to save. He is might-y to save. For-ev-er, Au-thor of sal-

16 D C G Em D C

- va - tion. He rose and con-quired the grave. Je-sus con-quired the grave.

DISMISSAL

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 141 by M. Haugen

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God, I call to you, come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you.

Keep watch within me, God;
Deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

All praise to the God of all,
Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.

*The altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God
by the Dunfee family
in honor of Kaitlyn's 21st birthday*



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Lynda Martinez

Greeter: Jim Foscett

Ushers: Julie Auger, John Auger

Reader: Audrey Day

Sound: Paul Warren

Streamer: Beth Fenner

Nursery: Alyson Fleming, JT Fleming

Refreshments: picnic

Offering Counters: Jim Foscett, Lynda Martinez

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