

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



“BLESSED *are the*
PEACEMAKERS,
for they will be called
CHILDREN OF GOD.” *Matthew 5:9*

Today's Worship Theme

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Welcome & Worship Notes

- We're glad you are here! We hope you experience the presence of God.
- Congregation responses are in **bold** print. "ELW" is the red hymnal.
- Holy Bibles are available in the racks under the pews.
- Our ushers can provide devices for those with hearing impairment.
- Please place your phone in silent mode.
- Restrooms and water fountain are down the hall from the Sanctuary.

Grace Lutheran Church Affirmation of Welcome

In the name of Jesus, who invites us with reconciling love and grace to join in the kingdom of God, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all who profess, or seek to profess, Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believing that the Gospel is God's gift to all, we rejoice in the diversity of God's people and welcome all, regardless of age, cultural and economic background, ethnic and linguistic heritage, gender, marital status, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. We are all one in God's eyes, sharing in the free gifts of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage all to take part in the life of this congregation as we worship, witness and openly share the love of God through Christ our Lord.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Come, Beloved of the Maker"

Franklin Ashdown

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin, kneeling as we are able.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

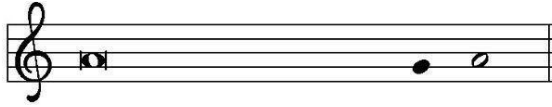
Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

ELW 873

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



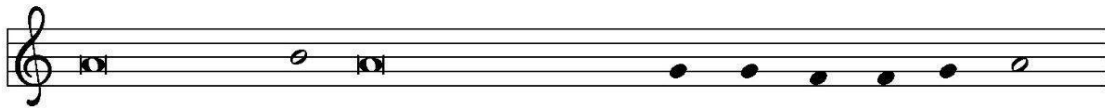
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message and then are invited to the Sunday School classrooms upstairs for Children's Church and Music. They will return to the sanctuary before Holy Communion.

A READING FROM Micah 6:1-8

God empowers the people to do justice, to love and to walk in God's service.

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." ⁶"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

God has chosen to work power and salvation through the cross.

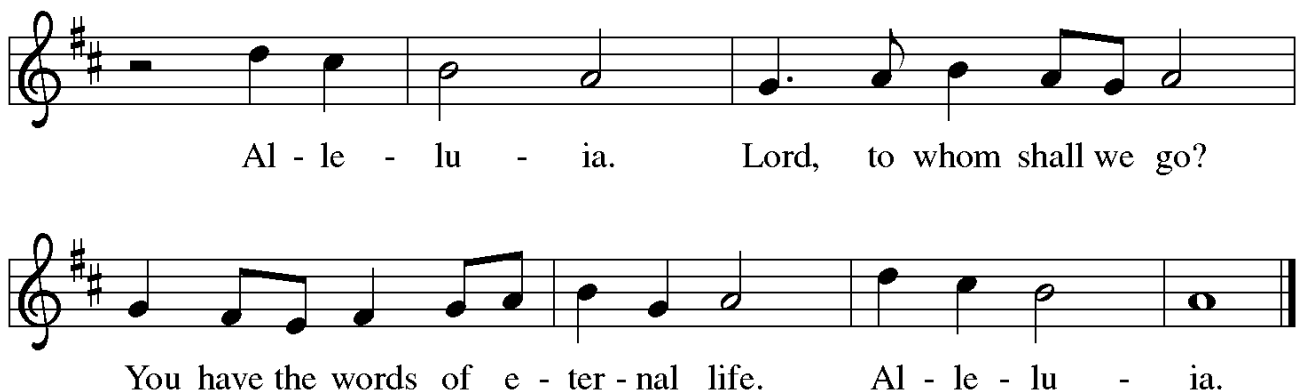
¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus names those who are blessed in God's world.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Remain seated.

REFLECTION SONG

*“Prayer of Mother Teresa”
Sung by Alexandria McNeely*

Craig Courtney

*Lord, help me spread your fragrance wherever I go.
Flood my soul with your Spirit, and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being
so utterly that my life may be only a radiance of yours.
Shine through me, and be so in me
that every soul I know will feel your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me,
but only you. Amen.*

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Please stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ MEAL ✠

Please be seated.

OFFERING SONG

*"How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings"
Sung by Alexandria McNeely*

Samuel Liddle

*How lovely are thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, faineth, for the courts of the Lord:
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

*Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,
and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young,
even thine altars, O Lord of Host, my King and my God.*

*O Lord, God of Hosts, hear my prayer.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.*

Thank you for partnering with Grace as we share God's love so that all are served and supported. Please visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the offering plate in the Narthex or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "GREAT THANKSGIVING". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God! **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table so all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited. Communion will be served at the head of the aisle. You will receive bread first (the bread is gluten and dairy free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to your seat.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"In the Singing"

ELW 466

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

ELW 818

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"To Be Your Presence"

ELW 546

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

Michael Burkhardt

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Are given to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Wellborn's and Norma Cook's 99-year-old mother, Beulah Storie, by Judy Wellborn.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God.

A special thank you to those who served as Worship Assistants this week.

Those volunteers' names are posted on the Narthex table. 😊

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] | Psalm 112:1-9[10] |
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] | Matthew 5:13-20

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2022 through December 30, 2022

December Giving	December Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$44,534.86	\$27,500.00	\$107,507.78	\$110,000.00



*Grace Lutheran:
Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.*