

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 25, 2025
9:30 a.m. Worship



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church
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Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Please take a moment this morning to fill out the “Attendance & Communion” Registration Cards (located at the pew card holders). Place your card at the end of the pew.

P - Presiding Minister; A - Assisting minister; **C - Congregation;**

*** - PLEASE STAND**

LBW - Green Hymnal

WOV - Blue Hymnal

+ + +

Please silence electronic devices.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

***PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

***GATHERING SONG: “Open Now the Gates of Beauty” (LBW 250)**

***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:**



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ⓒ Christ, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:**



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



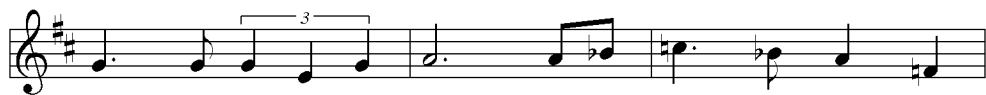
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I
II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that you love us with an everlasting love for the sake of Christ. Grant us your peace so that in times of this world's tribulations we may always remember that your Son has overcome the world;

C **through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A A reading from Acts.

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67

A ¹May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

C **²Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

A ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C **⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.**

A ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

- C** **“The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**
- A** ⁷May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

- A** A reading from Revelation:

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed — ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

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

***VERSE:**



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

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

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

***GOSPEL: John 16:23-33**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

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

²³{Jesus said to his disciples,} “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” ²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson — The Holy City

6th Sunday of Easter; 5/25/2025; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:9-14,21-27; John 16:23-33

Children's message: In today's first lesson from the Bible, the Apostle Paul was in a city where he had never been. He wanted to visit people who worshiped God, but there was no regular meeting place. Do you know where he looked? By the local river (Acts 16:13). Why? Because the water of life is behind the story of life, from Genesis to the last book of the Bible. In the 23rd Psalm, where does God, the Shepherd, lead the sheep to calm them down? By the waters. Who might want sheep not to be calm, but running every which way, exhausted and easily influenced? One of the most important things that you can know as a child of the Heavenly Father is how to quiet yourself and pray. God listens, and answers, perhaps not always as we ask, but as we need. Jesus will lead you all your days. There will be times of challenge. There will be times of refreshment. Just keep following him. Make time for a quiet, prayerful heart. God will lead the way. Let's pray...

The Holy City

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. The Book of Revelation can be extremely difficult, and needs to be handled with great care. Over the centuries, the final book of the Bible has been bound up with some questionable endeavors. *But when used well*, it has proven itself, again and again, often making its way to graveside gatherings of the bereft, who need a Word from beyond this broken world.

Even just for everyday living, the words have come through in the clutch for Christians going through difficult times. Above the clamor of fallen existence comes the call of God to persevere, one step at a time, behind the Victorious Lamb. There's a promise that cannot be taken away, only squandered away, if we do not listen. Here's Jesus, from today's Gospel, "*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world*" (16:33b).

God's promise, full of everlasting hope, comes down from Heaven. It has been received by the faithful of every generation, aware of their need for renewal, longing for the gracious goodness of God to win the day, beginning in their very own hearts and minds.

Our call, therefore, is to pay close attention, resist the urge to twist ideas more to our liking, and simply allow the inspired words to speak. Then we will find a perfect message for Memorial Day weekend, on the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Let's take it a little at a time. You may find it helpful to follow along in your bulletin. Revelation, chapter 21, beginning with verse 9:

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

Right from the start, the words are filled with mysterious, seemingly contradictory images. An angel, with a bowl full of gloom-and-doom “plagues” for the judgement of the world, points to the beautifully perfect “Bride,” “the wife of the Lamb.” How does this hold together? One thing is sure. The Lord got the Apostle John’s attention, and through his testimony, we are paying attention, too. By the time we’re done with this reading, matters should be clear enough.

Slowly, we come to understand that the judgement of God *is in service of* the holiness of God. He will make sure that there’s genuine hope again. What kind of hope would it be if God just put a stamp of approval on the corruptions of this fallen world? And what foul corruption has the human mind not come up with, nudged by the Tempter? The Holy One is no accessory to a crime against the goodness of his own creation. He does not wink at the twisting of his will.

But neither has he given up on us. Quite the opposite. He laid down his very life for us, then took it up again in power, glory, and dominion. The confusing imagery serves to make something crystal clear. The beauty of the “Bride” is in complete relation to the sovereignty of “the Lamb.” The victorious “Lamb” is the one who creates the beauty in the first place. He makes people clean by the power of his own self-sacrifice.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

“The holy city,” those words, put together, haven’t always spoken to me. We’ve got at least one New Yorker in the congregation, and Sinatra sang a thrilling tribute. But I’ve never been fully convinced. I grew up seeing the Bible as a country book, as in nature, with seasons of growth producing wheat, fruit, and little calves leaping in the sunshine. And for the most part, the Bible, itself, portrayed cities as places of sin and trouble, which came as no surprise to me. After all, the very first city was founded by Cain after he finished off his brother (Gen. 4:17). Even Jonah, forced to visit Ninevah, camped outside the city limits (4:5). A good spot to pout. IMAGINE MY SHOCK, then, when it dawned on me that the ultimate imagery of God’s redemption was in the form of...a city!

Of course, it turns out that it's not just any city, but "*the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven....*" I do "want to be a part of" *that* version. One Bible teacher said of the city that it's "the realization of human community, the concrete living out of interdependence," where "the beauty of life is not a solo but a symphony" (E. Boring, pg. 219, *Revelation*; John Knox Press). Facts are facts. And the crowd before God's throne will be too big to count, from every tribe and nation (Rev. 7:9).

This may come as a shock to those of us who like to "get away from it all," meaning the company of ducks and perhaps a cautious loon. *But what if there was no more reason to "get away from it all"?* What if the terrible part of life could be removed? What if only the blessing remained, and we could see each other and treat each other as God intended? What if people were healthy, faithful, honest, gentle, deferential, and humble in the awareness of the error of their own ways? That's quite a different picture! It may be a rare find in this world. But that's all there will be in the holy city to come.

¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

Here's a helpful quote from a Bible teacher: "You cannot enter the holy city without being reminded of the revelation of God which came through Israel" (Lynn H. Hough, pg. 534, *The Interpreter's Bible*; Vol. 12). The full biblical legacy must be understood.

Abraham and Sarah learned to live by faith, holding fast to the promise and goodness of God. Through the legacy of Abraham and Sarah, God's blessing pours forth, like living water, onto the families of the whole world (Gen. 12:1-3).

The mission was always bigger than a mere plot of land in a terribly troubled region. It's about hearts, minds, and souls getting right with God, not by virtue of earning, taking, or controlling, but by the simple, profound power of trusting the will and Word of the Lord above all else, right in the middle of it all. This is the source of genuine peace, the wholistic sense of *shalom*.

¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Through the gates of the Old Testament, into the promise of the New Testament, with the whole structure built on the foundation of the apostolic witness. This is why we hold to Scripture as we do. For it carries to each generation the sacred testimony of the Law, Prophets, *and* Apostles. It's the whole

message. There's a definite beginning, a flash of holy light (Gen. 1:3). Then the shadows of sin crept in, like a serpent, leaving behind misery and distress. But God's will was resolute, that the creation, so good at its founding, would not be forfeited. Some battles are just. And all who humbly follow "the Lamb" will know, in their hearts, what Heaven's victory really looks like.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ... ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Our Wednesday study just finished the book of Ezekiel. God gave the prophet a vision of Jerusalem renewed, even way back when. Do you know the very last line of Ezekiel's testimony? "*And the name of the city henceforth shall be, The Lord is there*" (Ezek. 48:35b; RSV).

It's true that back in Ezekiel's day, the holy city couldn't even be understood without reference to the temple. But what if time moved forward, and God's plan moved forward, and Israel's mission was fulfilled by a perfect, divine "lamb" arriving from Heaven? What if he gave himself as a sacrifice on behalf of those who could not purify themselves (Hebrews 10:12)? That's why there's no temple in the *new* Jerusalem. There will be no need. The names above the gates are still honored. And the testimony of God's ongoing Word becomes the foundation of the Apostles, upon which all else is built.

^{27a} But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false,

This brings us full circle. For if we have read through Revelation, we realize that a great contrast has been drawn. Yes, there's a perfect city, illuminated by the glory of the Lamb, called a "Bride." But go back to chapter 17, where the Apostle John was summoned just as he was in today's reading. There, too, he would behold a city, but an utterly corrupt one, in which there was no perfect bride.

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot...'" (Rev. 17:1a). *"The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a gold cup full of abominations...and on her forehead was written a name of mystery: 'Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth's abominations.' And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"* (Rev. 17:4-6). Every scholar I have read has

concluded that “Babylon” is code for ancient Rome, where Nero murdered both Peter and Paul, among others. But this desolation will not abide. For another angel comes announcing that “*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!*” (18:2b).

The one, holy God will not allow evil to win! Only what is good and true will remain. But that leaves us with a question: What if we have not been, and are not now, perfect? And what about 1 John 1:8? “*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*” Are we simply left out of God’s perfect abiding place? Furthermore, honesty demands an acknowledgement that we, too, have “*fallen short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). In what way, then, is this final book hopeful? For that, we must finish verse 27.

^{27b} but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Notice that it’s “*the Lamb’s book of life.*” The story contained within this book will include the names of the humbly forgiven, who bow before the majesty of God’s Son, who took your sin, all your failings, upon himself, for no other reason than that he loves you and does not want evil to destroy you. “*These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*” (Rev. 7:14b).

On this Memorial Day weekend, we have a lot to ponder and remember, from loved ones laid to rest, to those who deserve to be honored for the sacrificial heroism of their earthly lives. Let’s also remember to look forward in faith to a time when there will be no more wars, not even rumors of them. For Jesus told us to “*take heart; I have overcome the world*” (16:33b). Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Sweet Hour of Prayer*” (TFF 242)**

1 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief;
And oft escaped the temper's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

Thy wings shall my petition bear
To him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, B
elieve his word and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my ev'ry care
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

3 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight;
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing thro' the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!

***NICENE CREED:**

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS:

- A** Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, the faithful of all generations have looked to your sovereignty and grace for meaning and strength. Help us, as we seek to live out our callings, to be aware of worldly opposition. Give us an even greater awareness of the fact that Jesus has overcome the world. Grant us the peace of the victorious Lamb. Inspire us to serve him with courage and joy.
Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- A** We thank you, O Lord, for drawing us together in worship according to your congregationally-focused design. Grant us the cleansing inspiration of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, peace, and renewal in Christ, that we may steadfastly follow our Good Shepherd. Help us to see, with the eyes of faith, that the New Jerusalem is ahead of us. Teach us to walk, one day at a time, until we enter

those glorious gates. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the needs of the world. Especially on this Memorial Day weekend, we ask your blessing on our memories of those who have been laid to rest. Keep our loved ones in the peace of Christ until that great day to come. We also remember those who honorably served our country, many of whom laid down their lives to secure precious freedoms. Bless their memories. Bless their families. And bless the wholesome exercise of those precious freedoms. Protect all who serve with honor today, and their families. Guide our elected officials, that your wisdom would lead them for the good of all. And in this season of graduations, we pray for those who are heading into new life adventures, and for their families, who are also in a time of transition. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray on behalf of all who need healing in any way: *For the healing of our fellow Americans who have been severely struck by recent tornadoes, For the family of Tom Messmer, Greg Atkinson, Janet Barno, Beverly Childers, Vic Cross, Gene Emrick, Elaine Fudge, Mark Gillespie, Neal Hughes, Barry Ingram, Lisa Kiracofe, Linda Lambert, Tina Leonard, Doug McDade, Sally Mowell, Andy Proeschel, Samantha Proeschel, Brenda Renner, Dean & Mary Shetter*, as well as those whom we name silently in our hearts at this time (pause for silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

**C Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM: ***“Come People of the Risen King” Choir***

OFFERTORY HYMN: ***“The Doxology”***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Maker of all things.

C Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With

them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

**C 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.**

***BLESSING:**

**P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.**

C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (ELW 888)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea. | America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine. |
| 2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country
loved,
and mercy more than life: | 3 O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:

America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law. |

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929

*DISMISSAL:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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The Flowers on the Altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by: Dean and Mary Shetter in Honor & Celebration of their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

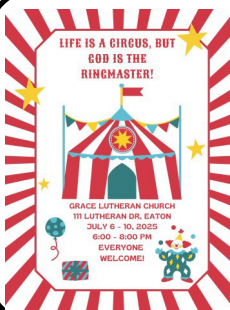
Summer Education Series: “Luther on Scripture”

“But as we fall very quickly from the Word of God, so we slip very quickly into idolatry, we fashion God and teach Him according to our own opinion”

(Martin Luther, pg. 19, “Lectures on Isaiah,” Luther’s Works; Vol. 17).

500 years ago, regular Christians were holding a Bible in their own hands for the first time. Imagine how that must have felt! Imagine how Luther must have felt, shouldering the responsibility for the translation, right in the middle of the challenges of the times. You are invited to learn more about these truly historic matters on Sundays this summer, after worship, meeting in the fellowship hall.

HOLD THE DATES



The dates for Vacation Bible School have been announced! **THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!!** **Sunday, July 6 through Thursday, July 10, 2025 6:00-8:00 p.m.** This year’s theme is: **“Life is a circus, but God is the ringmaster!”** ***STEP RIGHT UP !!!*** we need all the “Carnies” we can get. If you are able to help in any way, please join us on the following ***work dates***: **May 27 and June 3 & 10.** Come to one work date or all! If you have any questions, contact Tina Ebright—937-472-5663 or tinaebright5663@gmail.com

Graduation Forms are available in the narthex until the end of the month. If you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, please fill out a form (including a photo of the grad) and we'll Highlight them in the "Graduate Showcase" in the June **Grace Herald**.

As Memorial Day approaches (May 26), let us truly honor/remember those who have been laid to rest as they served and protected us and our country.

Restroom Renovation The restrooms on the Sunday school wing are **now complete** and usable. The demolition and remodeling of the restrooms on the east/office wing has begun.

The GRACE HERALD: If you have an article to submit to the **Grace Herald** newsletter, please submit it by ***the 15th of each month.***

"COUPS FOR THE TROOPS"

Collects coupons up to two months expired, which are accepted overseas for our military personnel to use at the commissaries. Please place clipped or unclipped coupons in the box in the Narthex & the Fellowship Hall. Contact Becky Lenk with any questions you may have—937-416-8435. Thank you!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE COMMON GOOD of Preble County Food Pantry—Grace Lutheran is asked to provide: CEREAL, BREAKFAST BARS (i.e., protein bars, granola bars, cereal bars, etc.), INSTANT OATMEAL, PANCAKE MIX AND SYRUP. Drop Off To The Shopping Baskets in the Fellowship Hall ANYTIME



Outdoor Summer Worship:

The 2nd and 4th Sundays of June, July, and August, we will gather around the picnic shelter at the regular time—9:30 AM. Invite a friend! Bring a blanket and folding chair, if you like. For those who need/want to stay in their car, with just a window rolled down, as you drive onto the property toward the church, simply go to the left around the building. As you get closer to the picnic shelter, someone will be there to assist you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for May: Amy Jackson, Barb Myers

Altar Guild for June: Sandy Stevenson, Judy Hacker

Offering Counter for May: Carol Perry

Offering Counter for June: Nancy Childs

Sunday, May 25—Easter 6

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Dorothy Stoltz & Debbie McKinney

Usher: Darryl Leyes

Lector: Barb Myers

Sunday, June 1—Easter 7 — Dan Reke

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Patty Barnes

Usher: Tom Barnes

Lector: Debbie McKinney

Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday

9:30 a.m. OUTSIDE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Scott & Nancy Parkinson

Usher: Scott Parkinson

Lector: Nancy Childs

Communion Assist. Jane Coggin, Barb Myers

Sunday, June 15—Holy Trinity

9:30 a.m. INSIDE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Dean & Mary Shetter

Usher: Jeff Kiracofe

Lector: Mary Shetter

Communion Assist. John Kiracofe, Debbie McKinney

Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)

05/18/2025

84

\$4,440.38

Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Abundant Grace, West Chester

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com
www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY May 25, 2025—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. Adult Education
6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores

Monday May 26 — OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERV. OF MEMORIAL DAY

Pastor's Day Off
9:45 a.m. TOPS
6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

Tuesday May 27
6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group
6:00 p.m. VBS Workday (FH)
6:00 p.m. Wine & the Word (Perry's)
7:00 p.m. Lakeside Fellowship (Schultz's)

Wednesday May 28

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Beginning the book of Daniel)
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday May 29
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (FH/Shelter)

Friday May 30
12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production

Saturday May 31

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

- * **Refreshments** for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.
- * **Youth Sunday School** has ended for the summer and will meet again on Rally Sunday.
- * **Adult Education**— for the next few weeks the Adult Education class will study the lessons of the day. Please join us in the fellowship hall after Worship. Coffee and snacks provided.
- * **Sunday S'mores**—a Middle School- & High School-aged Youth Sunday Evening Ministry. They meet every other Sunday at 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator and she can be reached at 937-472-5663.

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- ♦ **The Phoebe Women's Bible Study.** They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the ***2nd Monday of each month***. They will begin a new study - "***Living with Defiant JOY***" a six-session study. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- ♦ On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month:**
Wine & The Word meets at 6:00 p.m. for a light meal (at the home of Carol Perry). They have been viewing the (hopefully, fifth) season of ***The Chosen*** and discussing it afterwards. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com

Lakeside Fellowship (at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz) begins at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan Schultz at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- ♦ **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m.** in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying the Book of ***Daniel***.

These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.

IN OUR PRAYERS

After 4 weeks we will remove names from this list. If you would like to keep someone on the list, please note their name on the back of the “Attendance & Communion Registration” form.

URGENT PRAYER LIST:

GRIEVING:

For the family of **Thomas “Tommy” Messmer—Suzie Dell’s Cousin**—He was called to the Church Triumphant earlier this week.

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

of our fellow Americans who have been severely struck by recent tornadoes.

Greg Atkinson: (Mindy Ramsey’s brother-in-law—He is undergoing tests)

Janet Barno: (Friend of Renee Kerr—has a collapsed lung & many complications after breaking her femur in November)

Beverly Childers: (Undergoing tests)

Gene Emrick: (For strength & comfort)

Elaine Fudge: (As she recovers from knee surgery)

Mark Gillespie: (Friend of Dan & Karen Schultz—As he deals with health issues)

Lisa Kiracofe: (Prayers as she deals with breast cancer)

Linda Lambert: (She is undergoing testing)

Tina Leonard: (Daughter of Gerry & Barb Myers—Tina’s cancer has returned and has metastasized)

Doug McDade: (Son-in-law of Terry & Evelyn Good—recovering from illness)

Sally Mowell: (She is the friend of Daren & Karen Marshall —She’s been diagnosed with cancer)

Andy Proeschel: (Brother of Paula Murray—Follow up tests at Cleveland Clinic show improvement)

Samantha Proeschel: (The niece of Paula Murray— She is having surgery. Prayers are asked for 'prayer cover' and a speedy recovery)

Dean & Mary Shetter: (Continued prayers that new medication continues to raise his red blood cell levels)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST....Tom & Patty Barnes, Mark & Debbie Emrick, Gordon Self, Jackie Steiner, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy Jackson, Jean Bailey, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Tim Lanthrop, Barb Goebel, Connie Coffman, Carmen Hasdorff, Martha Grimme, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry: and those serving in the military: Maj. Love Hartman; Capt. John Kettelman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Alex Pollitt, Airman, U.S. Air. Force.

Ask and You Will Receive

*Find the 33 **bold** words from John 16:23–28 (ESV)*

L S A S K A V E H I V E O T F
E I L S D F S P M I P K W E L
A H A V E G L K O A M D Z L E
V H C E E P S A W E N S U L M
I B D Y W E W H H H Y F E Y O
N B O O R M A E A E X M C L C
G U R U G T Y O U V B D O U F
R L G O E N P L A I N L Y R W
D I T V L J I H B G O E N T F
F N E I O F N H O S W V G U L
I R T Y A D O G T U P I B B O
I N T T A S K E D O R E S U V
U O H C F G N I O G N C A C E
D E V E I L E B L I X E U K S
R E M A C Z Z M W X B R W A N

In that day you will ask nothing of me. **Truly**, truly, I say to you, **whatever you ask** of the **Father** in my **name**, he will **give** it to you. **Until now** you have **asked nothing** in my name. Ask, and you will **receive**, that your **joy** may be **full**. I have said these things to you in **figures of speech**. The **hour** is coming when I will no longer **speak** to you in figures of speech but will **tell** you **plainly** about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on **your behalf**; for the Father **himself loves** you, because you have loved me and have **believed** that I **came from God**. I came from the Father and have **come into** the **world**, and now I am **leaving** the world and **going** to the Father.

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