

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 16, 2025
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.

In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered.

Children who do not yet receive Communion may come for a blessing.

Holy Communion will be offered as you kneel at the chancel rail.

Please take a moment to fill out the “Attendance & Communion” Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister

C - Congregation

* - PLEASE STAND

+ + +

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 Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

C Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you

with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN: “Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult” vs. 1,3,5
(LBW 494)**

***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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P God of might, strengthen your church through the gifts of word and sacrament that we might live in hope and promise. Grant that we may not lose heart when the journey makes us weary and the future seems uncertain or dire.

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

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 4:1-6

A A reading from Malachi:

¹“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded

him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

A ¹Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

C **²With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.**

A ³The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

C **⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

A ⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

C **⁶Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.**

A ⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

C **⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.**

A ⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

C **¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.**

SECOND LESSON: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

A A Reading from Second Thessalonians.

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. ⁶Now we command you,

brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL VERSE:**

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

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

***GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-28**

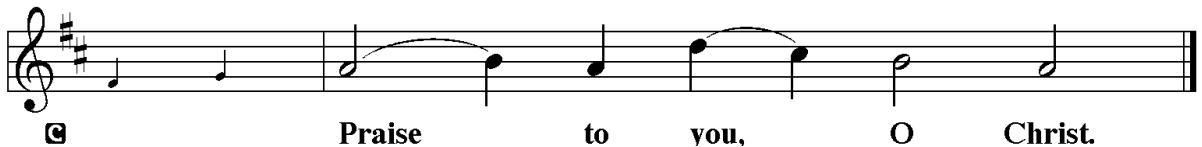
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, {Jesus} said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And {the disciples} asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do

not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives. ²⁰But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson: Sturdier than Stone

23rd Sunday after Pentecost; 11/16/2025; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Malachi 4:1-6; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13; Luke 21:5-28

Children's message: There's a passage from the book of Malachi that says that God's love will so capture our hearts that we will love others as we should. If we've got anger or frustration or disappointment, maybe in our families, or even with ourselves, God says...a new day will rise! God will turn the hearts of children to their parents, and parents to their children. This life can be hard. But there's this thing called forgiveness. And when we let in the Light of Jesus, we see the goodness for what it is. And then giving thanks becomes easy to do. For we are already thankful. Let's pray...

(Note: Some changes may be made to sermons between the printed version on Friday and the preached version on Sunday. It's just how it works. If a particular sermon hits home on a Sunday, and you want a fully edited version, just let me know and I'll be glad to send it. D.H.)

Sturdier than Stone

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Jesus said, "*But not a hair of your head will perish*" (Lk. 21:18). I remember sitting at a men's Bible study years ago, with this very passage before us. One older fellow, named Arnie, pointed to his bald head and wondered if perhaps he had done something wrong? He had a grin on his face, and it was a humorous moment, but in a way, it also highlighted a crucial question.

If we seek to honor the Lord, does it mean that we can count on getting a free pass through this life? Is that what the promise of God is about? And when things *don't* go our way, according to our definition, is that a sign that God has forsaken us? If God is watching over our lives, how are we to know it? *You have my Word on it*, says the Lord. But are we content with that? It can be hard to understand and trust the Lord in the trenches of life.

What do those who belong to Jesus Christ receive, what basis for hope? We get a promise, a presence, and the blessed name of Jesus to carry with us. What we don't get is automatic, earthly immunity from troubles. This is a fact of life. And even the first century disciples had to come to terms with it.

In many ways, the grand sweep of our readings, the bookends of Malachi and Luke, address the full range of human folly, from too much discouragement because things hadn't gone as planned, to the other side, too much excitement because the Jerusalem temple was such a glorious sight to see! Human hopes, human disappointments, human agendas, human outcomes.

In the face of these things, Jesus had to splash some cold water, informing the disciples of persecutions "*for my name's sake*" (Lk. 21:12, 17). Even the massive

temple stones that they so admired would all be thrown down (Lk. 21:5-6). Faithfulness on earth does not occur in an amusement park, not even in neutral territory. This life is spiritually embattled, and the line of conflict runs through the heart and mind of each person. We, ourselves, are contested turf. We will never understand the meaning of things until we accept this reality.

So, if you really want to start to make things better, the first thing to do is find a mirror. Take an honest look. Then, when humility begins to turn to excessive self-criticism, look again and see if you can discern the outline of the cross of Christ on your forehead. Remember that you are loved by God with an everlasting love, to death and life once more. The Author is not done writing your story. This we have from God, the healing of the promise, now and forever.

But we must begin with the facts of life. One of the dangers for the disciples in today's Gospel involved false hopes and comforts. Then, when disappointment inevitably set in, how tempted they would be to follow false messiahs and wrongheaded notions. Their misconceptions, if not corrected, would be their undoing. Don't expect Eden-like existence outside of Eden. Be faithful amid the realism, understanding that healing will come in God's good time. Our well-being is tied to trusting the Lord our God, who is trustworthy.

So, the Word for today contains some shocking passages. The temple was very much at the center of discipleship learning. Compare the time of Jesus with the time of Malachi, about 500 years before Christ walked the earth. In today's Gospel, the disciples were only a generation away from the destruction of a version of the temple that left them in awe. But way back in the time of Malachi the people lived only about a generation after the rebuilding of the temple, following the exile. That version of the temple left many feeling underwhelmed. Notice that in both cases, underwhelmed and overwhelmed, the people of Israel were missing the point, the heart of the matter. Why did the building exist in the first place? Whom did it represent?

In the time of Malachi, the old glory of Solomon's temple was only a memory. What they had in the 400s B.C. was much smaller, and far less ornate. The state of affairs left the people discouraged. The return from exile just hadn't gone as hoped. Was it even worth all the trouble? What had been thankful hearts, glad to participate, faded, slouching toward a last-fruits commitment, if commitment is even the right word. The harder the experience became, the harder their hearts and questions toward God.

But were they accurately diagnosing the situation? They were understandably frustrated when many of the people of the time, who were openly doing wrong, seemed to fare better than those who tried to do the right thing. Where was the justice? Where was the hope? As old Arnie suggested a few years back, *did I do something wrong? Why isn't this going better?*

But the story goes even further back than Malachi. A faithful little group had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 537 B.C. Immediately, they rebuilt the altar in the courtyard. Sacrificial atonement could begin again. They could stand before God as the redeemed of the Lord. All the while, families dug through rubble and ruins, where wild animals had begun to prowl, trying to piece together a home and a renewed life. Nevertheless, how good it felt to be making progress!

A year after the altar was rebuilt, the tenacious people laid the foundation of the second temple. But then a hard truth began to settle in, that they were not the great and mighty nation they'd once been—*“many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy”* (Ezra 3:12; ESV). If you've ever had conflicting thoughts and feelings about the course of your life, remember the people of old. It's all in the Book. There they stood, some of them stuck with thoughts of glory days long past.

But at least they had a temple again! Could they be thankful for what they had? If they could have seen into the thoughts of the neighboring rulers and peoples, they would have appreciated the blessing at hand. For the neighbors had gotten used to the absence of Jerusalem glory and traffic, and they didn't want Jerusalem to be Jerusalem again. *“4 Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build 5 and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose...”* (Ezra 4:4-5a).

Opposition. Frustration. For fifteen years the foundation sat there, unfinished. Yet, God's people were building their own homes, to be sure. Just not the temple. Sure, times were tough. And matters were confusing. The promises of return had been so promising. But could it be that the people were a little too shocked by the contested nature of the world? Were they too quick to give up because resistance also lived somewhere within themselves?

Because things didn't go exactly as they wanted, the dredging up of excuses became a common pastime. Negligence of the things of God found easy

justification on their lips. All of this happened 2,500 years ago. And nobody was wrong in their own eyes.

So, God sent His Word again: ⁴ “*Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?*” ⁵ *Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.* ⁶ *You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes*” (Haggai 1:4-6). “*Yet now be strong...declares the Lord.*” “*Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts*” (Haggai 2:4). “*The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former...And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts*” (Haggai 2:9).

With renewal of purpose, buoyed by the encouragement of God, they finished the second temple. All they needed now was to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, and matters would really start to take shape. But this would not happen for 70 years! And even when it did, under Nehemiah’s supervision, it was greatly resisted, with threats against the people from neighboring regions (see Nehemiah 4).

Do you see how important it is to have clear and realistic expectations about faithfulness in this world? Jesus wasn’t the first to introduce this to his disciples. It was the entire experience of Israel. And now it’s an aspect of reality for the mission of the Christian Church on earth. There is deep peace with God. But if we insist that this same peace must be accompanied by a worldly benediction, we’ve set ourselves up for trouble.

Our Lord gives us an everlasting identity as his children that’s stronger than temple stone. The old temples served their redemptive purpose, right up to the arrival of the Messiah. Christ is now the temple, the place of atonement. And we become temples of the Holy Spirit. The power is in the name of Jesus, who overcomes every worldly challenge. So, the Lord told them to move into the future with confidence, but also with clear expectations—“*do not be terrified*” (Lk. 21:9b). He’s with us to the end.

He knows you. He loves you. And he has the power to redeem you, completely. So, dark though the valley may seem at stretches of the journey, walk forward in faith, trusting that morning shall dawn like Easter, and the “*sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings*” (Mal. 4:2). When our refuge is in the name of Jesus, we have the sturdy blessing of the temple not made by mortal hands. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Have No Fear, Little Flock” (LBW 476)**

***APOSTLES’ CREED:**

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH:

A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, whose judgments are right and good, grant us the Holy Spirit throughout our days, that we may seek your will. Grant us the wisdom of humility, and the comfort and protection of the risen Lord. When all else becomes shaky in this fallen, earthly realm, draw our hearts to Jesus. Inspire us to bear witness, faithfully, in his name, so that others may know the peace that surpasses understanding. Grant these things to your Church until we see our Savior face to face. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the whole Christian Church. Inspire us to be mission-driven. Continue to pour out your blessings on our outreach partners: The Bishop and staff of the NALC; Mission District brothers and sisters; Abundant Grace of West Chester; NALC Disaster Response; Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries; Chris, Emily and family, along with the entire World Mission Prayer League; and many helpful partners within our own community. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the needs of the world: For our civic leaders, that they would seek the wisdom of your will. For peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, in Africa, and wherever hostilities have boiled over. Protect all who serve honorably in harm’s way on behalf of others, and their families. Strengthen each of us amid life’s many vocations. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the following: **In Praise**—for the Mt. Castle Family at the birth of Beau; **In Grief**—The family of Shelby Haynes, The family of Fred Sander; **In need of Healing**— *Almanie Alderson, Jerry Brown, Alexis Chapman, Beverly Childers, Connie Coffman, Richard Coggin, Travis Deck, Jerry Durbin, Mark Emrick, Randy Foust, Cary Giordano, Barb Goebel, Ellen Hazel, Corky Ingram, Connie Martin, Devin Mays, Mindy Ramsey, Brenda Renner, Maggie Risko, Fred Sander, Tom Schamel, Shane Seidenstricker, Wayne Williams,* and others whom we name 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

VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “Let the Vineyards”**

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a soprano or alto clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The text is as follows:

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.

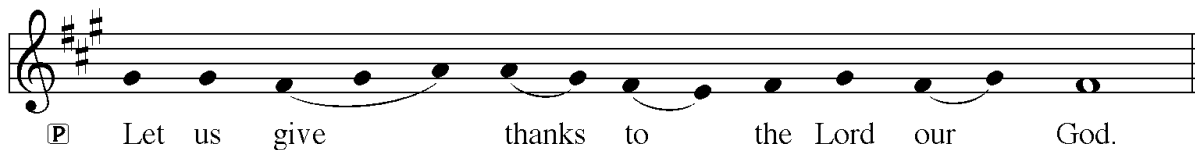
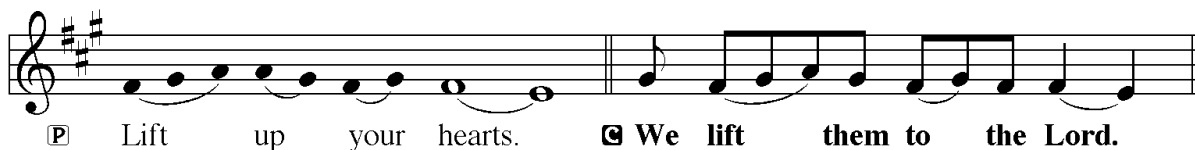
***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

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.**

***HOLY COMMUNION:**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**



It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in all

places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther, through

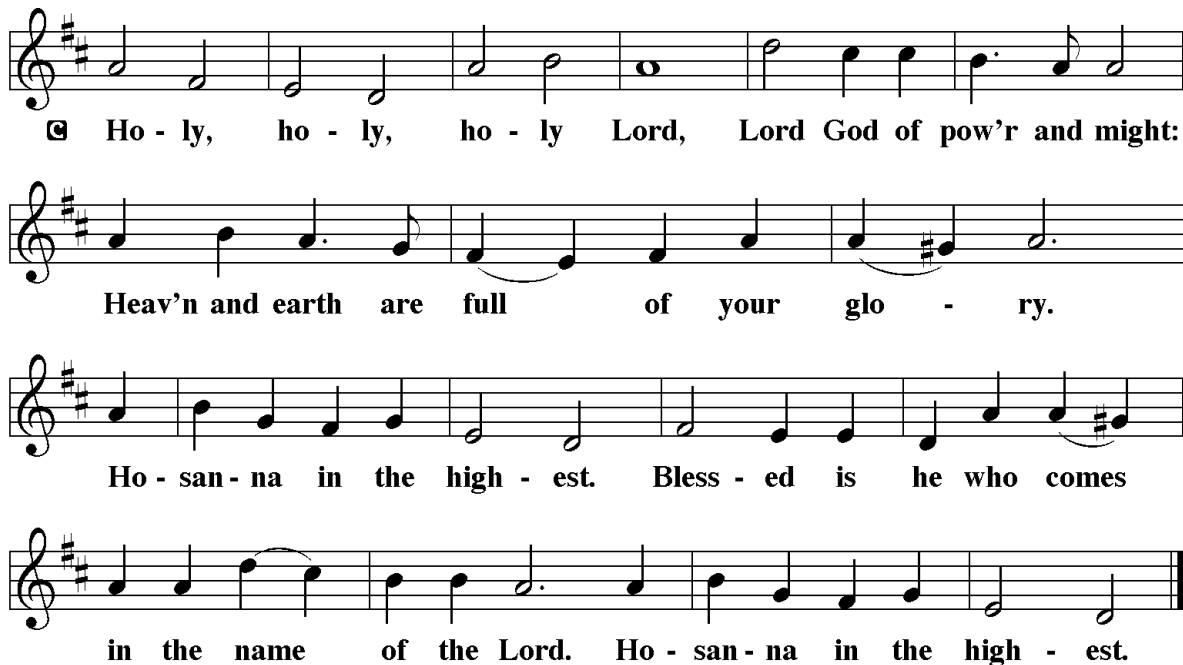
Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his

glorious resur - rec - tion opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we

praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***SANCTUS:**



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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

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:**

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF CHILDREN

COMMUNION HYMNS: *“Lamb of God”*



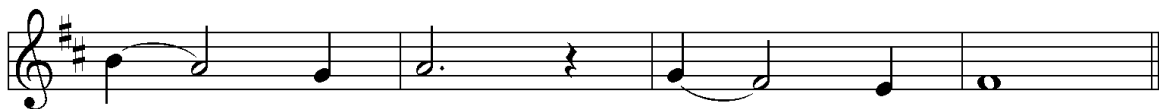
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

“Abide With Me” (LBW 272)

“Jesus, Still Lead On” (LBW 341)

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You” (LBW 453)

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***THE BLESSING:**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

***SENDING HYMN: “We Praise You, O God” (LBW 241)**

***DISMISSAL:**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THIS WEEK AT GRACE

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY November 16, 2025 — Pentecost 23

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time & Adult Education—Lessons of the day
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School—Pageant Practice
6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores

Monday November 17

Pastor's Day Off
9:45 a.m. "Choose to Lose" (formerly TOPS)

Tuesday November 18 —Homeless Shelter Meal Sponsor— Marti Good-Ernst

Wednesday November 19

9:00 a.m. Bible Study - Studying the minor prophets
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday November 20

1:00 p.m. PERI Meeting (Rex Mt. Castle—FH)
2:00 p.m. Graceful Fiber Guild
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH/Shelter)

Friday November 21

12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production

Saturday November 22

NEXT WEEK'S EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Sunday, Nov. 23—Pentecost 24/Christ the King Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30—Fellowship & **Annual Congregational Meeting**

10:30—**Youth** Sunday School/Pageant Practice

Wed. Nov. 26—12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production for 11/30

NO Confirmation

Thurs. Nov. 27—**OFFICE CLOSED FOR Thanksgiving Day**

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Thanksgiving Dinner (Grace Fellowship Hall)**

7 p.m.—AA Meeting (Shelter/FH)

Fri. Nov. 28—**OFFICE CLOSED**

Sat. Nov. 29—10:00 a.m. Church Decorating

IMPORTANT YOUTH EDUCATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Christmas pageant practices have begun during the regular Sunday school time after worship (10:30) for the Pageant on December 14 (9:30). All kids are welcome! If anyone has questions, please talk to Tina Ebright, Kelly Hanson, or Kelly Coffman. There will be **no Sunday school** on **November 30th** due to Thanksgiving weekend.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for November: Wanda Winter, Carol Perry
Offering Counter for November: Karen Schaeff

Sunday, November 16—Pentecost 23

9:30 a.m. Worship

Acolyte

Greeter: Dean & Mary Shetter Sophia Steiner
Usher: Gary Pemberton
Lector: Patty Barnes
Communion: John Kiracofe, Debbie McKinney

Sunday, November 23—Christ the King Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship

Acolyte

Greeter: Rex & Kelly Mt. Castle Jessa Barnes
Usher: Rex Mt. Castle
Lector: Barb Myers
Communion: Carol Matevia, Jane Coggin

Sunday, November 30—Advent 1

9:30 a.m. Worship

Acolyte

Greeter: Darryl Leyes Sophia Steiner
Usher: Darryl Leyes
Lector: Nancy Childs
Communion: Barb Myers, Elaine Fudge, Wanda Winter

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

11/9/2025 88 \$16,029.29

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

Following Worship—Refreshments for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.

- **Youth Sunday School classes** meet @ **10:30 a.m.** — in the Sunday School music room (Education wing) and start with songs and prayer, then go to the adjacent classroom for our lesson. Bring a friend! Parents are always welcome.
- **Adult Education**— Following 9:30 a.m. worship, the adults meet to discuss the lessons of the day. Coffee and snacks provided.
- **Every other Sunday— Sunday S'mores @ 6:00 p.m.** —a Middle School- & High School-aged Youth Sunday Evening Ministry. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator and she can be reached at 937-472-5663.

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- **The 2nd Monday of each Month — 7:00 p.m.—The Phoebe Women's Bible Study.** They are studying— *“Living with Defiant JOY”* a six-session study. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- **The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month:**
 - * **6:00 p.m. — Wine & The Word** — this group shares a light meal (at the home of Carol Perry). They will be choosing a new study. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com
 - * **7:00 p.m. — Lakeside Fellowship is held** at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/ Dan at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- **The 2nd Tues. of each month — 5:30 p.m. — FOR MOMS . . .** They are studying 6-session Bible Study for MOMS — **Mom Set Free** by: Jeannie Cunnion.
- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study — 9:00 a.m.** — meets in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the *minor prophets*.
- **The 3rd Thursday of each month — 2:00-4:00 p.m. — “Graceful Fiber Guild”** — meets in the Fellowship Hall or the adjacent meeting room. Bring a craft you've been working on or just come to learn a new craft. Everyone is welcome to join us! Our next meeting is ***Thurs., Nov. 20th.***

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:

PRAISE BE TO GOD: For the healthy birth of Beau Mt. Castle, grand-son of Rex and Kelly, great-grand-son of Dick Lehman and son of Seth & Tera. They are all doing well!

GRIEVING: The Family of Shelby Haynes who was lost in a car accident on 11/10. The Barnes family at the passing of Fred Sander who was called to the Church Triumphant last week.

IN NEED OF HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Almanie Alderson: (baby undergoing cancer treatments)

Rhonda Paige Atkinson: (Mindy Ramsey’s sister—dealing with a brain tumor)

Jerry Brown: (Father of Renee Kerr—Awaiting diagnosis and care plan)

Alexis Chapman: (Friend of Kelly Coffman—on bedrest for remainder of pregnancy)

Beverly Childers: (rehabbing at home)

Connie Coffman: (rehabbing at Vancrest)

Richard Coggin: (Recovering from heart attack and procedures)

Travis Deck: (Friend of Coffman’s—Prayers for his safety while on a 6-mo deployment)

Jerry Durbin: (Long-time friend of the Jackson’s—recovering from a fall from a ladder)

Mark Emrick: (rehabbing at The Rehab. Institute of Oh. in Dayton back surgery)

Randy Foust: (Son-in-law of Janice Pearce—recovering from back surgery)

Cary Giordano: (Sister of Kelly Coffman—prayers for complete healing)

Barb Goebel: (dealing with health issues)

Ellen Hazel: (Mother of Renee Kerr’s friend—having health issues.)

Corky Ingram: (Tiffany’s father-in-law—dealing with respiratory issues)

Connie Martin: (Friend of several folks at Grace—Dealing with cancer)

Devin Mays: (Great-nephew of Karen & Darren Marshall-having medical issues)

Brenda Renner: (Recovering from cancer treatments)

Maggie Risko: (Lisa Kiracofe’s mother—recovering from a broken hip)

Tom Schamel: (Health issues)

Shane Seidenstricker: (Suzie Dell’s brother-in-law—as he prepares for his 1st radiation treatment)

Amy Steele-Arth: (Niece of Shetter’s—prayers for safe pregnancy)

Wayne Williams: (Relative of Karen & Adam Schaeff —Diagnosed with cancer)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LISTSherri Howard, Shane Seidenstricker, Heather Cooper, Greg Atkinson, Tom Schamel, Lisa Kiracofe, Mark Gillespie, Linda Lambert, Tom & Patty Barnes, Mark & Debbie Emrick, Gordon Self, Jackie Steiner, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy Jackson, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Barb Goebel, Connie Coffman, Carmen Hasdorff, Martha Grimme, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, 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; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Airman, Alex Pollitt, U.S. Air Force.

NOTES



Grace's Homestyle Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday November 27th

This year we will be hosting a Homestyle Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

We want to extend a **Special Invitation** to those who may not have family to share a meal with or cannot prepare an entire meal. We will cook the Turkey and we ask everyone to bring a Special side dish or dessert that reminds them of Thanksgiving's past.

This year we are asking for help in the kitchen . . . set-up/clean-up, etc. Cooking will start early in the morning and we will plan for dinner to be served at 1:00 p.m.

Ask Rob or Suzie Dell for help details.

Friends and Family are welcome to join us as this is *truly* a Family Celebration as we are all Family in Grace!

A Sign-up Sheet is available in the Narthex.
Come early as we will have activities planned and the Thanksgiving Day Parades to watch on TV.

What better way to Celebrate than with your Grace Family!



LET'S DECK THE HALLS, etc.!!!!

On Saturday, November 29th

Let's meet to decorate the sanctuary and around the church

We'll get together at **10:00 a.m.!**

Many hands make light work!

So come, and bring your family and friends!

Looking for a way to help people this holiday season?
Collect the items listed below to provide a Holiday Meal to a family in need.

We anticipate helping 180 families

Let our Days be full of Thanks & Giving

Help provide items to support a Holiday Meal for a family in need. The Common Good Food Pantry is collecting the items listed below in November to be given out to families in December.

Items should be dropped off to the Once Around Shop by December 1, 2025

Shopping List

Monetary donations for large meats

Instant Potatoes	Coffee, tea, cocoa, juice	Flour
2 cans of corn	2 Cans of green beans	Vegatable Oil
Stuffing Mix	Boxed cakes/Brownie	Sugar/Brown Sugar
Cream of Mushroom Soup		Chicken Broth

Breakfast items (Pancake mix, Syrup, Oatmeal)
Spices (chili powder, allspice, garlic salt, salt, pepper, etc)



**Feeding the
Community**



Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Are available on the pew in the Narthex.

Instructions on how to Pack a Shoebox Gift, Shoebox Gift Ideas and what NOT to include, are in the boxes. If you are using the broken-down, green Crocs boxes, the instructions are on the pew. Please take one.

**Return filled boxes no later than
Sunday, November 23, 2025,
to the Narthex.**

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28) – November 16, 2025

“As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.”

- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 -

Have you ever gotten so busy that life becomes chaotic? Are there times when you are so rushed that everything you carry into the house just lands on the closest horizontal surface? Do your shoes end up scattered everywhere and the mail gets so high that it falls on the floor? This is what happens when family members do not keep up with their responsibilities.

The people in Thessalonica knew that Jesus was coming again, and they expected Him at any moment. This meant that some did not think the flesh mattered or that they needed to work. Paul wrote to remind them that each member has work to do for the benefit of the community. The fellowship of believers is like a family, brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul’s instruction went beyond the work of the church. He encouraged all Christians to be active participants in the world around them, working to provide for their own needs and for the needs of the community.

The widows, for instance, could not provide financial support but they could help teach and guide the young women. They had no money, but they had time and wisdom to share. Sadly, some of the widows were wasting their time being busybodies and gossiping rather than helping. They didn’t think they had a purpose, so did not spend their time doing things that would benefit the community.

As part of the community of believers, we are all called to be faithful witnesses of the Gospel in words and deeds. Our work will never gain us salvation, but as Christians it is up to us to live as God has gifted us to live. Paul reminds us not to grow weary, but to live as God called us to live. As part of the family of Christ, God has given us everything we need to do His work in the Church and the world. When everyone does their part, everything works according to God’s design, and He is glorified.

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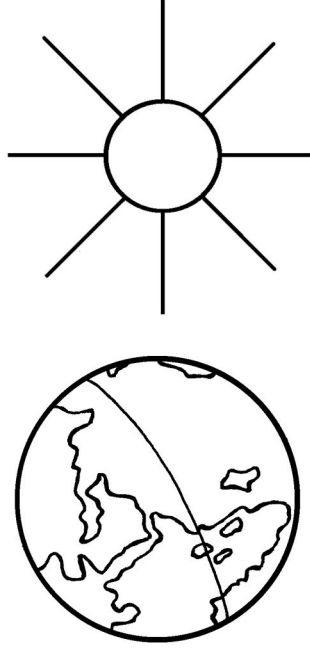
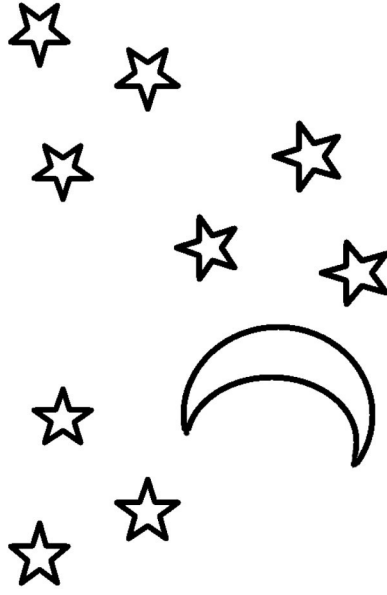
Your Redemption is Drawing Near

Find the 34 bold words from Luke 21:25-28 (ESV)

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

Today's Gospel Lesson

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025



And there will be **signs in sun and moon and stars**, and on the **earth distress of nations in perplexity** because of the **roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear** and with **foreboding** of what is coming on the **world**. For the powers of the **heavens** will be **shaken**. And then they will **see the Son of Man** coming in a **cloud with power and great glory**. Now when these things begin to take place, **straighten up and raise your heads**, because **your redemption is drawing near**.

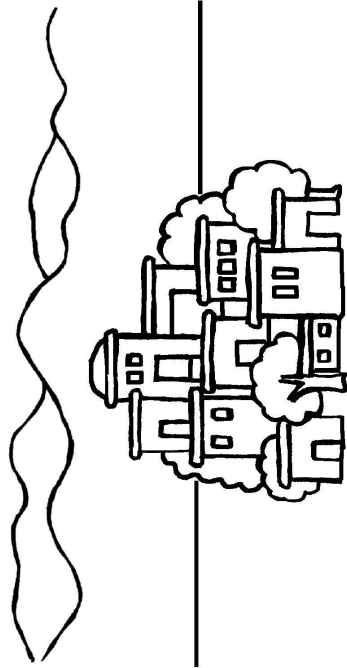
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When Jesus comes again,
there will be signs in the heavens.

Children's Worship Pages

When Jesus returns, he will come on a cloud in glory.
Even the sun, moon and stars will look different!

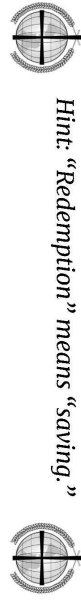
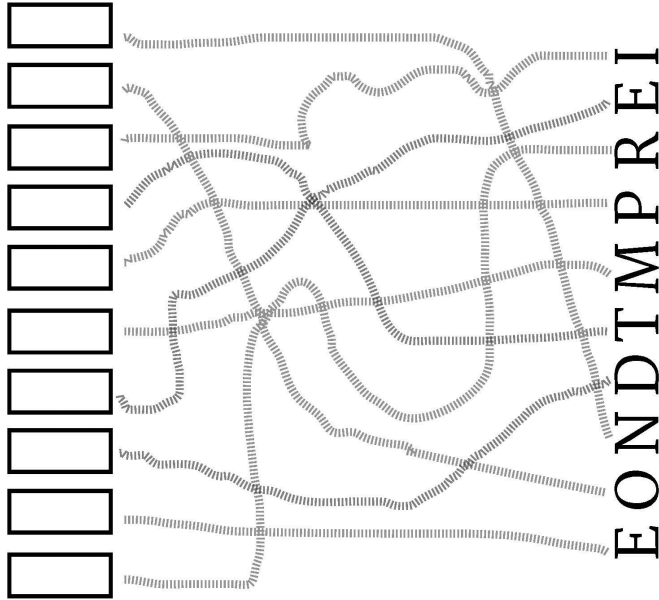
Can you fill this night sky picture with stars?
Draw as many stars as you can. Then, count them!



When they see signs up in the sky,
Christians can trust God, and raise their heads. Why?
Their _____ is drawing near.

What word is missing?

Follow the squiggly lines. Write each letter in the correct box.
The answer is upside down at the bottom of the page.



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**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED
for Sunday, November 23, 2025 following 9:30 a.m. worship.
We'll meet in the Sanctuary.**

The Agenda will include:

- Approval of May, 2025 Congregational Minutes
- Election of new council members for 2026
- Approval of 2026 Budget
- Vote on ratification of three amendments to the NALC Constitution that were voted on last summer at the Convocation
- Renewed in Grace Update
- As Well as Other Items for Consideration/Authorization