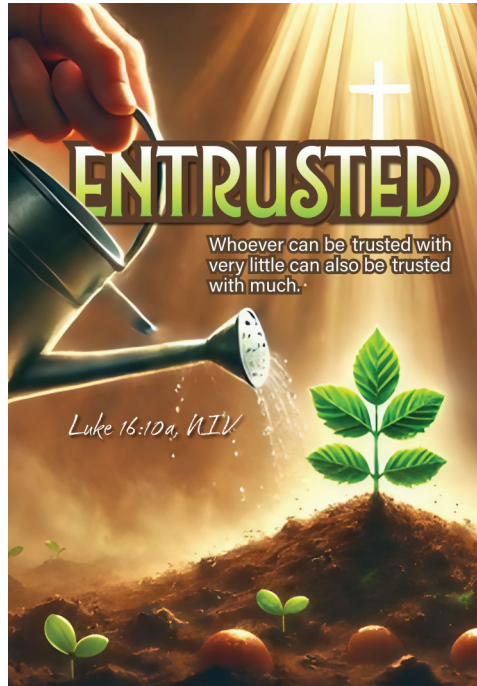


The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 21, 2025
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258

GraceEaton111@gmail.com— www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

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: ***“Sing to the Lord of the Harvest” (arr. by: Nelson)***

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: “*For the Beauty of the Earth*” (LBW 561)**

***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 abundance, all good gifts come from you and you bless us with life and salvation. Apart from your holy love we have nothing. Keep us mindful that we have been bought with a price and teach us to live generous and obedient lives;

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

FIRST LESSON: Amos 8:4-7

A A reading from Amos:

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?” ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 113

A ¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

C **²Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

A ³From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

C **⁴The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.**

A ⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

C **⁶He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes.**

A ⁷He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people.

C **⁸He makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

A A Reading from First Timothy.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

A The Word of the Lord.

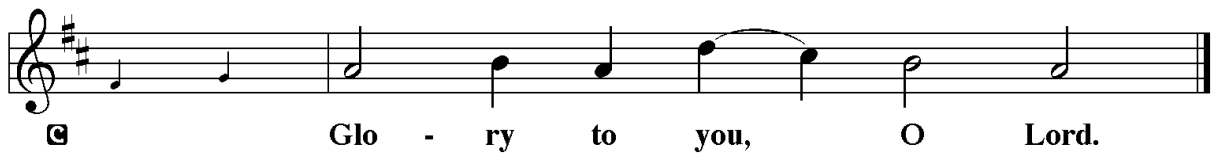
C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL VERSE:**



***GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-15**

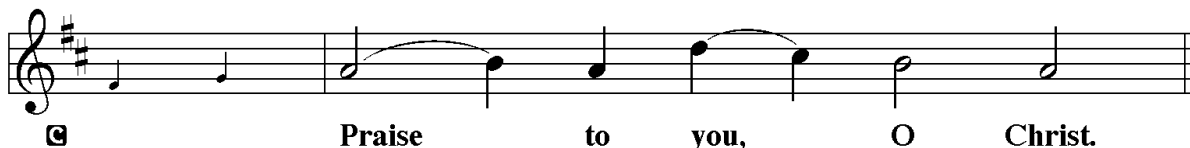
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.



¹{Jesus} also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be

devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” ¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson: Tiny Tim

15th Sunday after Pentecost; 9/21/2025; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-15

Children's message: Jesus told the story of a man who didn't trust his boss. So, he cheated and stole from him. Even worse, the boss was trustworthy and only had the man's best interest in mind. Where was the problem? Inside the heart of the dishonest man. When we gather in church, we always ask God to make our hearts clean. If a person stops listening to God, fear and greed can quickly take over. But is that faithful? God provides for our needs. He even sent Jesus so that the blessings last forever. Let's try something: Make a fist with your hand, like you just grabbed something and you want to keep it from everyone else. Now, turn that fist over and open your fingers, like you're receiving a blessing from God. Which one feels better, closed or open? The open hand is also more likely to share, for God gives plenty. Let's pray...

Tiny Tim

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. When I was a kid, there was one phone for the whole family, permanently attached to the wall. Asking parents for an "unlimited plan" back then would have resulted in an unlimited list of chores. As for TV, we had a few channels, *if* the weather cooperated. Which was ironic, since the main reason for watching TV was to check the weather! Followed by farm market prices, which I never fully understood. Then there was the local sports report, where hopes were always high for a hometown mention.

I do remember that when there were significant happenings in the larger world, Dan Rather or Tom Brokaw made an appearance. They had a half-hour to communicate the essentials. Then, back to the important question: Would there be enough snow for school to be canceled? Inquiring minds wanted to know. As I look back now, the scope of attention was small. Yet, everything felt big.

Today's readings go out of their way to tell us that in a big world, the everlasting God is very aware of little people, easily overlooked or run-over, and little things, where small acts of faithfulness are either lived out or dismissed.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (Lk. 16:10).

Look at our reading from Amos, chapter 8. God was aware of the abuse of the "poor" and "needy" (vs. 4). Our Psalm shows the Lord stooping down to lift up the "weak," placing them on equal footing with "princes" (Ps. 113:5-7). Score one for the little guys! And just in case there's any question, Jesus put the world on notice when he said that what gets *"exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God"* (Lk. 16:15b). So much for most of what passes for glory.

But there's one more example where God makes a big deal of something little—better yet, *someone* little. Many New Testament letters were written to a congregation, or a cluster of them (Gal. 1:2). Our second lesson for today was written by St. Paul to a person, Timothy (1 Tim. 1:1-2). There must be a backstory.

Paul lived a big life, and even, at times, wrote in big letters (Gal. 6:11). But he needed help from someone who operated, for the most part, behind the scenes, just off stage. And that brings us to Timothy. As Paul once put it to the Christians in Philippi, *"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare."* *"But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel"* (Philippians 2:19-20, 22).

Like a father, Paul had to encourage Timothy not to let others despise him because he was young (1 Timothy 4:12). To borrow a phrase: It's not the size of the person in the ministry; it's the size of the ministry in the person! Growing up, maybe Timothy didn't quite know where he stood in the world, with a Jewish mother and a Greek father (Acts 16:1).

Some people just seem to step into the world brimming with confidence. Others find their footing as they grow in faith and life experience. The same truth applies to all: We are little, but God is big. It's the work of the Holy Spirit that builds proper confidence. And it was so, for the heart of young Timothy welcomed the message of Jesus. He was willing to embark on a journey of serving the risen Lord, assisting the Apostle Paul wherever God led them.

Here was this regular person, beloved by God, valuable to Paul, who rendered tremendous service to Christians all over the ancient world, with fruits that have even made their way to us. Oh, how big little can be. Do we not need this very message in an age when only the most extreme spectacle—"Never been seen before!"—has a chance of capturing attention?

Along comes this devoted little fellow, easy to overlook. There's an interesting passage toward the end of First Corinthians. Paul knew that these brothers and sisters, though beloved by God, could be a tough bunch, and could easily fall into judging matters by worldly standards. Timothy was carrying Paul's letter as his representative, and as a servant of the Lord Jesus. Paul, therefore, wrote the following: *"When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me..."* (1 Cor. 16:10-11a).

A New Testament teacher, based on these words, wondered if Timothy might have been a little bashful, or easy to dismiss, or carried the wounds of other conflicted situations and didn't need more. Not only that, "Paul must underline the fact that Timothy was doing the Lord's work just as much as he (Paul) was" (pg. 650, *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*; Vol. 4). Paul wrote the letter. Timothy personally delivered it, passing through a mighty big world. Little services humbly rendered, or big events that draw attention, if they're done for the glory of Jesus, are they not the same in the estimation of the Almighty?

Autumn is a time of bustling activity in the church, many wonderful opportunities. Each one, by itself, might seem rather small. But put it together in the name of Jesus, and then see what you have. What could be smaller than a quilter's stitch? But string them together and they add up to a quilt headed for Disaster Response. A meal carefully prepared and delivered to the shelter, a card thoughtfully sent to someone going through a hard time, a much-needed hug or smile, all of it matters in the eyes of God.

And don't forget the prayers! Of course, worldliness has no time for prayerfulness. It scoffs: Why would you waste time asking for God to intervene when you could just impose your will on life? To which faith responds: But remember that we're all quite little, and we don't always know what's best in every situation. We need guidance.

Old Paul knew that one of the first things young Timothy needed to learn was prayer. When you feel overwhelmed, pray. Not just for your needs, but also for the needs of others. And don't forget the thankfulness! Actually count your blessings, and give honor to the source of them. *Hey, I wonder why my blood pressure just went down?* The person going into prayer may not be the same person coming out of it, even if the face in the mirror is familiar—except that what were once worry lines now have a peaceful look.

Shockingly, Paul wanted little Timothy to provide a service to the entire Roman Empire. Did you miss that part? Let me read it again. "*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way*" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

There are times when, in order to have a "peaceful and quiet life," one must ask God's intervention in the hearts and minds of "kings and all who are in high positions." The authority to govern is needed in a fallen world, and is given by

God (see Romans 13:1-7). The ability to do it in such a way that it leads to lives that are “godly and dignified” calls for the influence of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the people.

But this brings up a question: When First Timothy was written, weren’t many emperors and rulers harming Christians? As one scholar put it, “the church in the empire may have been tempted to shield itself from a hostile paganism by withdrawal into itself” (Gealy). Some emperors merely basked in the flattery of being considered a “god.” Others went so far as to demand to be worshiped as such.

This is where Christian prayer takes a fascinating turn. Not only is it an act of faithfulness to Jesus, who said to love your enemies *and pray* for those who persecute you (Mt. 5:44), but the act of praying for someone also locates them in the proper place within the grand scheme of things. “In the emperor cult people prayed *to* emperors; for Christians to pray *for* them removed emperors from the savior class and made them, like others, subjects for Christian salvation” (Fred Gealy, pg. 397, The Interpreter’s Bible; Vol. 11). In the end, we’re all tiny Tim.

Paul’s counsel then continues: “*This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*” (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

A few years back, I caught just the end of a televised interview with a fellow who authored a book about how to live a meaningful life. He was taking questions from the audience. A student, overwhelmed by the world, came to the microphone and wondered if there wasn’t some way to make a really big difference. Did the author have any advice? Without hesitation, the older man said that the answer is always the same: *If you want to fix the world, begin with yourself.* Everyone laughed, of course, including the author. Then he said that he was being quite serious. What would happen to this troubled world if each person tended to the wellbeing of his or her own heart, mind, and spirit?

In closing, let’s remember that our intercessions for others are possible because of the greatest intercession of all, when Jesus came down and “*gave himself as a ransom for all*” (1 Tim. 2:6). This is our treasure, and it’s far from the greedy grasp of the shrewd manager in Luke 16. God, “high above all nations,” “stoops” and “lifts up” the lowly (Ps. 113:4-6). And somewhere within every grateful heart, there’s a kinship with Timothy of old. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (LBW 364)**

***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, inspire us to be trustworthy in all the little things that are important in your eyes. May the Holy Spirit guide us in lives of faithfulness and decency for the good of all. Cause a harvest of righteousness to grow within us and among us. And unite us in humble faith that simply seeks to follow Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A As we pray for the Christian Church on earth, we ask for the Holy Spirit to keep us Christ-centered. Scripture is clear: We cannot serve two masters. Cleanse our hearts until the whole of life becomes a joyful, obedient response to the Kingdom of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

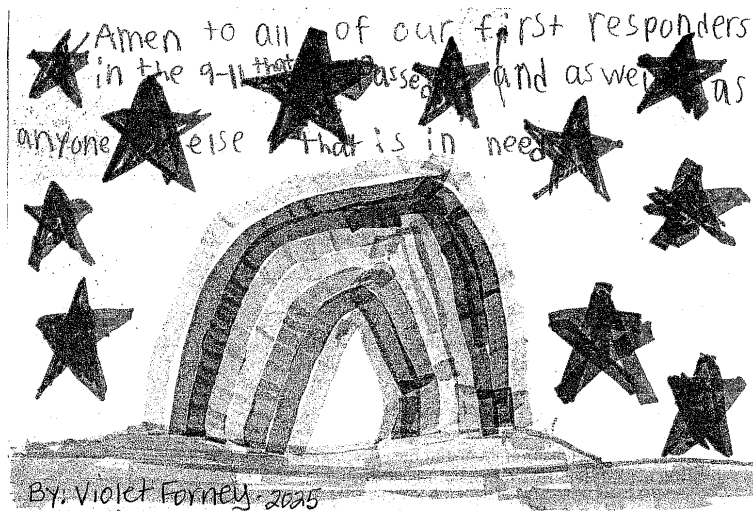
A Sovereign Lord, as we pray for the needs of the world, we seek to honor your will by giving thanks and offering up prayers for all people, including those who hold high positions in government. Cause our nation to be a place of peace and holy dignity, where the Word can be spoken freely, so that hearts are drawn to the Kingdom that never fades or falters. We pray for nations at war. We pray for all who face injustice. And we ask for your blessing on all who seek to help, honorably placing their lives in harm’s way. Bless their families, as well. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray to you on behalf of all who need healing from GRIEF: *The families of the slain officers in PA in their grief & for those who are still healing, The family & friends of Tim Lanthrop, The family of Linda Kottke; and for healing in recovery & illness — Beverly Childers, Connie Coffman, Rob Dell, Sheila Ingram, Barry “Corky” Ingram, Sherrie Howard, Connie Martin, Carol Matevia, Devin Mays, Mindy Ramsey, Brenda Renner, Dean Shetter, Amy Steele-Arth*, as well as those whom we name in our hearts (pause for additional names). 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.**

SPECIAL PETITION:



OFFERING

ANTHEM: “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LBW 410)**

1 We give thee but thine own,
whate’er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blestest us,
to thee our firstfruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

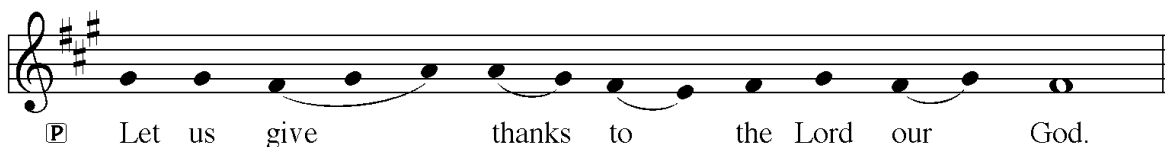
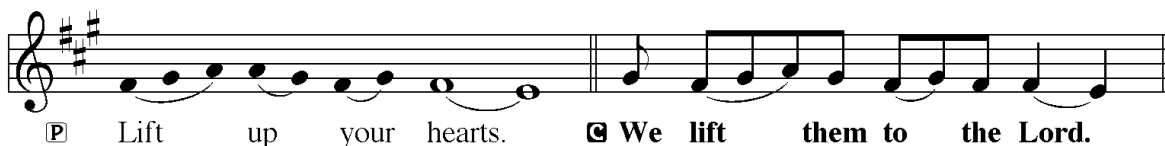
***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

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

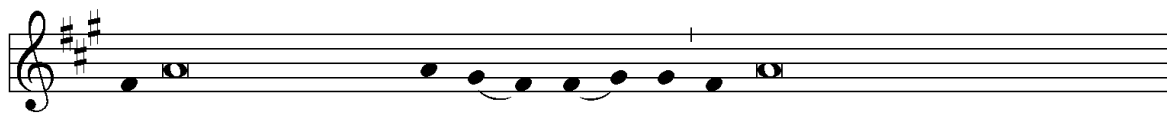
C **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION:**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**



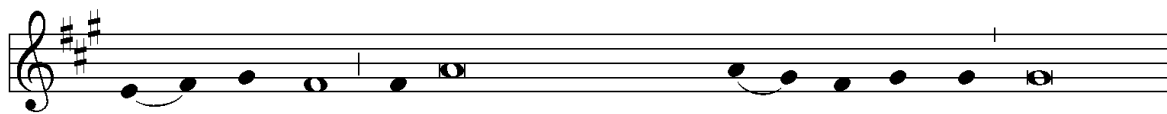
*PREFACE:



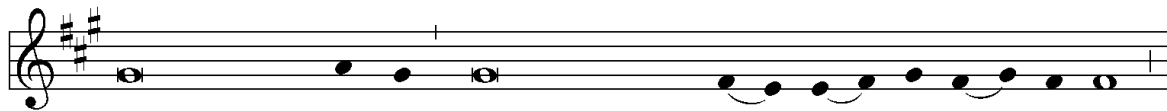
P It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in all



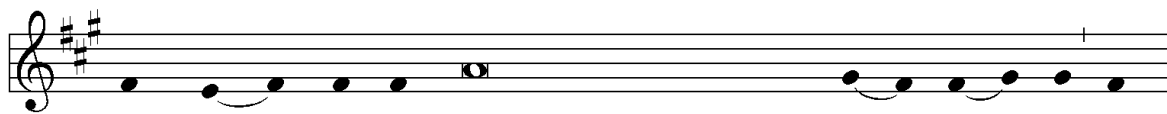
places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther, through



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.

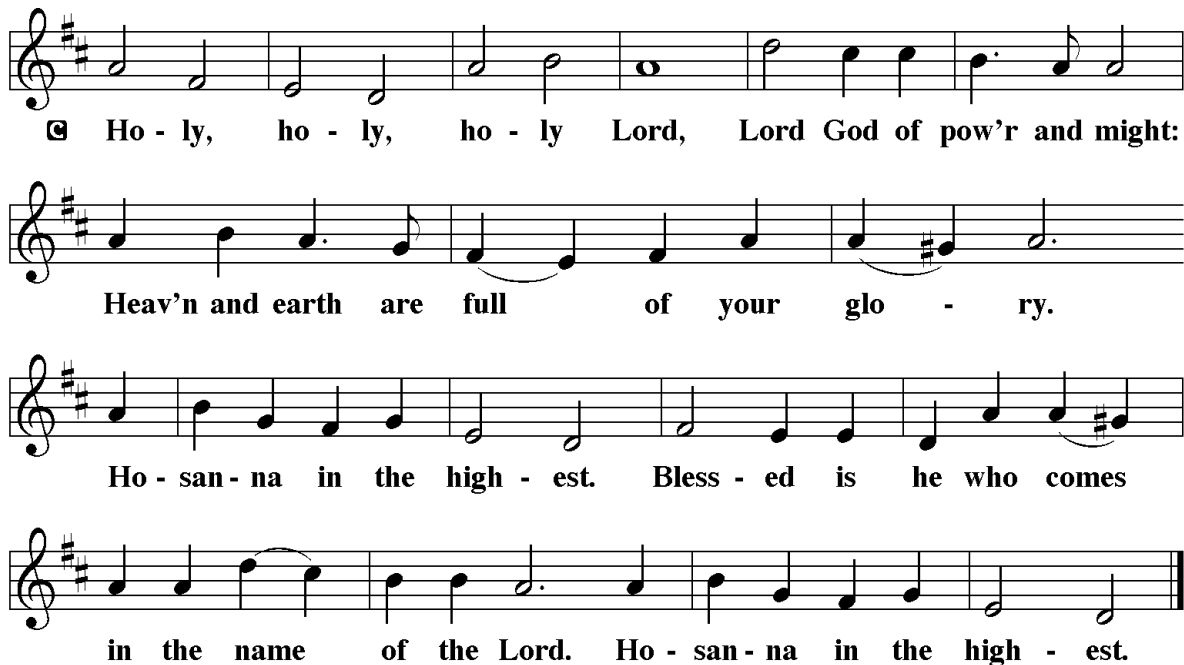


And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we



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”*



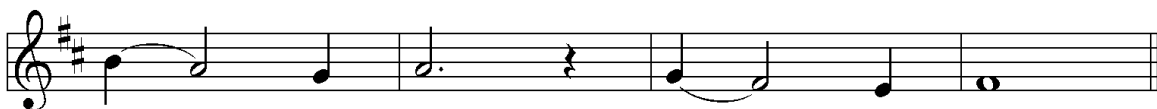
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

“Be Thou My Vision” (WOV 776)

“Amazing Grace” (LBW 488)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (LBW 290)

***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: “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” (LBW 259)**

***DISMISSAL:**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Liturgy reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22413. All hymns used by permission of CCLI License #44125 or are in the Public Domain. The English Standard Version is published with the permission of Good News Publishers. (English Standard Version - The Holy Bible Online).



The Flowers on the Altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Marti Good-Ernst and the Stoffregen Family in Memory of Paul Stoffregen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Confirmation Overview Student/Parent Meeting

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24th, in the fellowship hall.

This is for students who are 7th grade or equivalent and up. We will go over the program, schedule, etc.

New Member Inquiry Classes:

Would you like to find out more about Grace Lutheran Church, or what it means to be a Christian in the Lutheran tradition? You are invited to take part in two inquiry classes, led by Pastor Hanson **after worship on October 12th and 19th**. Classes will begin at approximately 10:45, meeting in the church library across from the secretarial office. **Class sign up:** Please call Mary in the office at (937) 456-6258 or email her at graceeaton111@gmail.com



GIFT CARD SUNDAY IS NOW GIFT CARD MONTH

STUFF THE TRUCK FOR NALC *DISASTER RESPONSE*

Cards may be placed in the **Dump truck** in the Narthex **ON** or **BEFORE September 28th**.

Restroom Renovation The restroom remodeling is nearing completion.

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.

CHOIR REHEARSALS are held on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary and end at 7:30 p.m. Whether or not you've sung with us before, please feel free to join us. And, if you can't commit to the entire season, feel free to join us as often as you can or for the Christmas/Easter seasons. Either way, contact Carol Matevia @ ckmatevia@gmail.com or 937-733-6908.

PHOEBE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY — is now studying “*Living with Defiant JOY*” a six-session Bible Study. They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the **2nd Monday of each month**. If you have questions or if you would like to join them, please contact Kelly Mt. Castle @ 937-336-1223 or email: kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com.

And . . . FOR MOMS . . . on the **2nd Tues. of each month** from **5:30-7:00 p.m.** a new, 6-session Bible Study for **MOMS — Mom Set Free by: Jeannie Cunnion** has begun. We meet and “commune with other moms who are in the same crazy, love-spiral of “Mommydom”. If you or someone you know is a “new” mom, “old” mom and/or “battle-hardened” mom, join us **every 2nd Tues of the month**. *****Child Care and Dinner will be Provided!***** To ensure enough books are ordered, please contact Kelly Hanson (937-456-4676) or Veronica Forney (1-910-581-8646) as soon as possible.



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 *September 21, 2025—Pentecost 15*

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Adult Education

6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores

Monday September 22

Pastor's Day Off

Restroom (Office wing) Remodel continues

9:45 a.m. "Choose to Lose" (formerly TOPS)

6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

Tuesday September 23 — OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group

6:00 p.m. Wine & the Word (Perry's)

7:00 p.m. Lakeside Fellowship (Schultz's)

Wednesday September 24

9:00 a.m. Bible Study—Book of "Hosea"

6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday September 25

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH/Shelter)

Friday September 26

12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production

OFFICE CLOSED IN AFTERNOON

Saturday September 27

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for September: Elaine Fudge
Offering Counter for September: Patty Barnes

Sunday, September 21, 2025—Pentecost 15

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Greeter: Ron & Becky Lenk
Usher: Clayton Kiracofe
Lector: Tiffany Ingram
Communion: Janice Barnes, Debbie McKinney

Sunday, September 28— Pentecost 16

9:30 a.m. Worship

Greeter: Gerry & Barb Myers
Usher: Gary Pemberton
Lector: Barb Myers

Sunday, October 5—Pentecost 17

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Greeter: Dorothy Stoltz & Debbie McKinney
Usher: John Kiracofe
Lector: Mike Schamel
Communion: Wanda Winter, Nancy Childs

Sunday, October 12—Pentecost 18

9:30 a.m. Worship

Greeter: Rex & Kelly Mt. Castle
Usher: Rex & Kelly Mt. Castle
Lector: Tina Ebright

Sunday, October 19—Pentecost 19

9:30 a.m. Worship

Greeter: Allen & Kelly Coffman
Usher: Allen Coffman
Lector: Kelly Coffman
Communion: Elaine Fudge, Jane Coggin

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

09/14/2025	84	\$5,379.88
------------	----	------------

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

- **Following Worship—Refreshments** for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.
- **10:30 a.m. — Youth Sunday School classes have resumed** We meet 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.
- **10:45 a.m. — Adult Education**— Following Fellowship the adults meet to discuss the lessons of the day. Coffee and snacks provided.
- **6:00 p.m. Every other Sunday— Sunday S'mores**—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)

- **7:00 p.m.—The 2nd Monday of each Month — The Phoebe Women's Bible Study.** They have begun the new study— ***“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** — have a light meal (at the home of Carol Perry). They have been viewing ***The Chosen*** and discussing it afterwards. 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 Schultz at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- **5:30 p.m. — the 2nd Tues. of each month — FOR MOMS . . .** a new, 6-session Bible Study for MOMS — **Mom Set Free** by: Jeannie Cunnion has begun. See additional information on page 14 of this bulletin.
- **9:00 a.m. — The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study** — meets in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are studying ***the Book of Hosea***.
- **2:00 p.m. — the 3rd Thursday of each month — “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., Oct., 16th.***

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: The family & friends (The Mt. Castle’s) of ***Tim Lanthrop*** on his passing this past week.

The family and friends of ***Linda Kottke*** — former member of Grace and mother of Sarah Kottke (current member) — Linda was called to the Church Triumphant on Thurs. 9/11.

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Beverly Childers: (She is now rehabbing at home)

Connie Coffman: (Prayers as she undergoes testing)

Rob Dell: (He is recovering from medical procedures)

Sheila Ingram: (Mother-in-law of Tiffany. She continues to recover from shoulder surgery)

Barry “Corky” Ingram: (He is undergoing tests)

Sherrie Howard: (Friend of Karen & Daren Marshall—she has been diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer)

Connie Martin: (Breast cancer has returned and she is awaiting the doctors’ plan of treatment)

Carol Matevia: (She has been under the weather)

Devin Mays: (12-year-old great-nephew of Karen & Darren Marshall-having a lot of medical tests to determine a diagnosis)

Mindy Ramsey: (She is recovering from her second wrist surgery)

Brenda Renner: (Recovering from cancer treatments)

Dean Shetter: (Prayers of thanksgiving & praise to God as his hemoglobin levels have started to rise to normal levels! Continued prayers needed as he has a heart catheterization on 9/23)

Amy Steele-Arth: (Niece of Mary & Dean Shetter—She is dealing with fertility issues)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST....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, Jean Bailey, 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.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20) – September 21, 2025

“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 -

Is God Knowable or Mysterious?

A survey asked, “Is God knowable or mysterious?” The problem with this question is that God is not either/or, He is both. We know God because He revealed Himself as He spoke everything into existence. He revealed Himself to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, the judges, prophets and kings throughout the ages. He revealed Himself in the Law. He revealed Himself in the deliverance of His people. He revealed Himself through the promises, and then He finally revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

We know God because He came to dwell among His people. Jesus Christ was the embodiment of the divine in the body of a man. God’s character was made manifest as Jesus lived and breathed among mankind. Jesus revealed God’s love and mercy and grace as He preached the Good News, healed the sick, and set free those who were bound by all manner of things. We can know God personally, we can even call Him Abba or Daddy, because of Jesus.

Despite being knowable, God is a mystery. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. He is the Deliverer who saved His people. He is the Redeemer who sets His people free. He is living and active in our world, just as He was in the beginning when He brought light out of darkness and order out of chaos. He still creates and recreates His creation and gives us all we need to join Him in the work of His Kingdom.

That is the greatest mystery. Why would the Creator, Deliverer, and Redeemer of the world give authority and power to people like you and me? God saves, but He calls us to share the Gospel with others. God’s Word brings peace, but He puts His Word in our mouths. He has promised great things to those He loves and is faithful to us despite our inability to be faithful to Him. He does all the work, but uses water, bread, wine, and people to share His grace with others. The Lord God Almighty is truly a mystery and yet He sent His Son to teach us how to reveal His truth so that everyone will know Him and be saved.

On Receiving True Riches

*Find the 26 **bold** words from Luke 16:10-15 (ESV)*

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

“One who is **faithful** in a very **little** is also faithful in **much**, and one who is **dishonest** in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the **unrighteous wealth**, who will **entrust** to you the **true riches**? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No **servant** can **serve two masters**, for either he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or he will be **devoted** to the one and **despise** the other. You cannot serve **God** and **money**.” The **Pharisees**, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they **ridiculed** him. And he said to them, “You are those who **justify** yourselves before men, but God knows your **hearts**. For what is **exalted** among men is an **abomination** in the **sight** of God.”