

**25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS**

Welcome to worship! We are a congregation with a long history of loving God and serving our neighbors. We welcome and celebrate all of you, including race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and family.

We welcome you to share fellowship with us in your joys and struggles. If you hunger for a good meal, a bag of groceries, the bread of communion, an opportunity to serve your neighbors, or a welcoming church home, there is a place for you at Grace!

✠ When you see this symbol you're invited to stand as you are able.

We love to sing! When music and words are not printed in the bulletin, you can find the song in the red hymnal underneath the chairs at the page number listed.

Children belong in worship! We recognize that children aren't wired to "sit still" for an hour, so we welcome their quiet movement, joyous singing, and encourage their involvement in worship. Children of any age may pick out a book, toy, or art supplies in the Commons for use during the service.

Help love reach beyond these walls. You can give online at gracempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion (envelopes are on the cart in the Commons).



All are welcome at Jesus' table to receive holy communion. We set the table with wheat bread, gluten-free crackers, white grape juice, and red wine.

Join us for fellowship time! All are invited to stay after worship for coffee, treats, and community connection in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Two single-stall and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the Commons, and another one is down the hallway across from the gym.

All images © 2023 sundaysandseasons.com • Scripture citations based on the Common English Bible © 2011 CEB. • "Halle, halle, halle." Music: Caribbean melody; arr. John Bell © 1990 WGRG admin. GIA Publications, Inc. • Kyrie, Now the Feast, Hymn of Praise, Prayer Refrain, Communion Liturgy, and Lamb of God adapted from the eucharistic setting "Now the Feast and Celebration," Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. • "Music streamed under OneLicense A-737608.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

✠ HYMN

My Lord, What a Morning

#438

✠ KYRIE

*Trusting in God's grace, we cry out for divine compassion: Lord, have mercy.
Transformed by grace, we join the song of angels around the throne.*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All sing:



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.



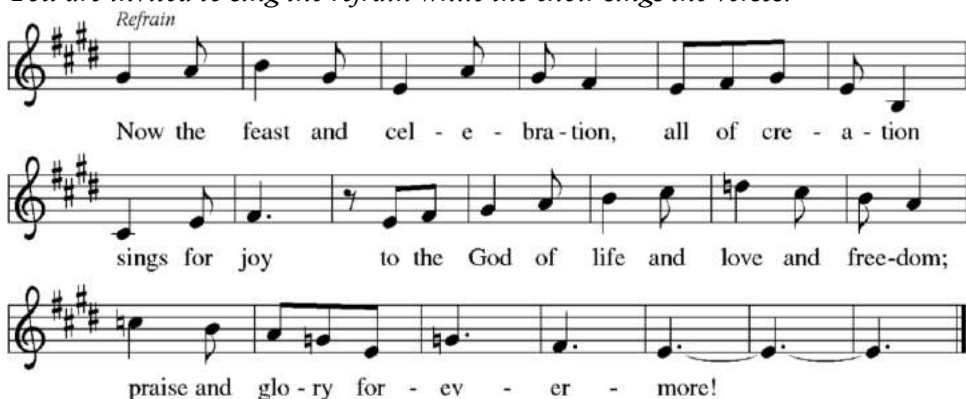
A - men.

✠ HYMN TO THE LAMB

Rev. 5:6-14, 21:3-5

You are invited to sing the refrain while the choir sings the verses.

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

*Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed
and united us to be one great people of God. Refrain*

*Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory
to Christ forever. Refrain*

*For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. Refrain*

✠ PEACE

May Christ's grace and peace flow through us to all God's children. The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with others as you are comfortable. When the hymn of praise begins, you may return to your seats and remain standing.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly;
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda ☩ 1 2

thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -
mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

☩ Coda

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

OBJECT LESSON

Any children who are interested and comfortable are invited to come forward for a reflection and short prayer. Parents and guardians are welcome too!

CHORAL OFFERING

As we prepare to hear the Word, music opens our hearts to receive God's blessing.

Hush before the LORD God, for the day of the LORD is near! The LORD has established a sacrifice; God has made holy those who have been summoned.

On the day of the LORD's sacrifice, I will punish the princes, the king's sons, and all those wearing foreign clothes. I will punish the one leaping on the threshold on that day, those filling the house of their master with violence and deceit. On that day—says the LORD—an outcry will resound from the Fish Gate, wailing from the second quarter, a loud crash from the hills. The ones who grind the grain will wail; all the merchants will be silenced. I will eliminate all those weighing out silver.

At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps; I will punish the men growing fat on the sediment in their wine, those saying to themselves, 'The LORD won't do good or evil.' Their wealth will be looted and their houses destroyed. They will rebuild houses, but not live in them; they will plant vineyards, but not drink the wine.

The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and coming very quickly. The sound of that day is bitter; a warrior screams there. That day is a day of fury, a day of distress and anxiety, a day of desolation and devastation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and deep darkness, a day for blowing the trumpet and alarm against their invincible cities and against their high towers.

I will make humanity suffer; they will walk like the blind because they sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their intestines like manure. Moreover, their silver and their gold won't be able to deliver them on the day of the LORD's fury.

This is the word of life.

Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL CHANT*Let us rise to greet the risen Savior in the Gospel*

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Repeat

✠ GOSPEL READING*Matthew 25:13-30*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

“It’s as if is a man, who was leaving on a trip, called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’ His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a

little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.' His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest.'

"Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness, where people will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'"

This is the Good News.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

✠ HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

#729

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, let us turn to our compassionate Creator with prayers for the planet and all people.

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: We turn to you with all our hearts, the Source of grace and mer - cy. Re - ceive our prayers and an - swer us, O God.

We turn to you with all our hearts, the Source of grace and
mer - cy. Re - ceive our prayers and an - swer us, O God.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*In the last two months of the year, members of our congregation invite us to join them in joy and generosity. Find options in the front cover for financial giving and subscribe to our e-newsletter *The Scroll* for opportunities to serve.*

✠ COMMUNION: SANCTUS AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

To the Giver of every good and perfect gift,
let us offer thanks through Jesus Christ.
With all creation, let us join heaven's song of unending praise:

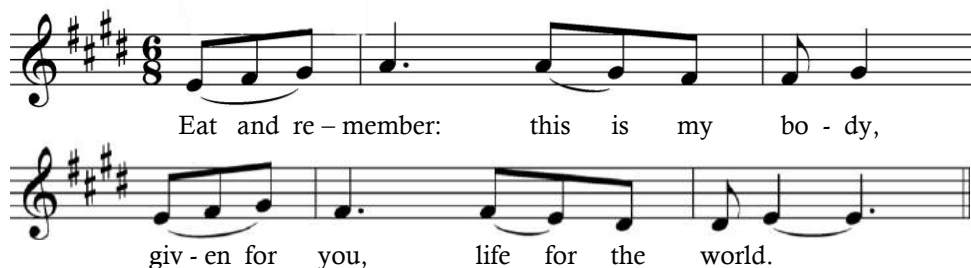
Five staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Congregation: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Congregation:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

You are indeed holy, O God, creator of heaven and earth...

Echo each sung acclamation as you are invited.

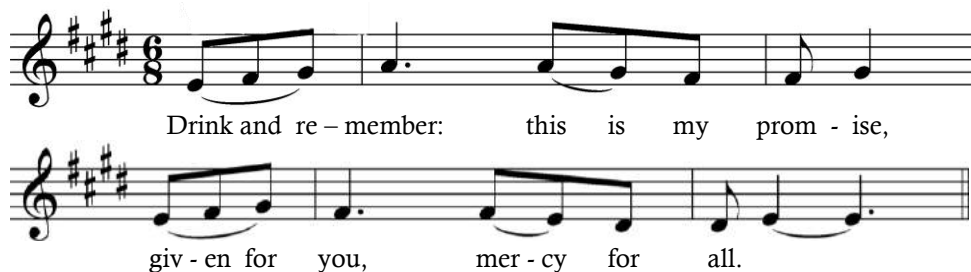
... Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it and shared it with his disciples, saying:



Eat and re - member: this is my bo - dy,
giv - en for you, life for the world.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

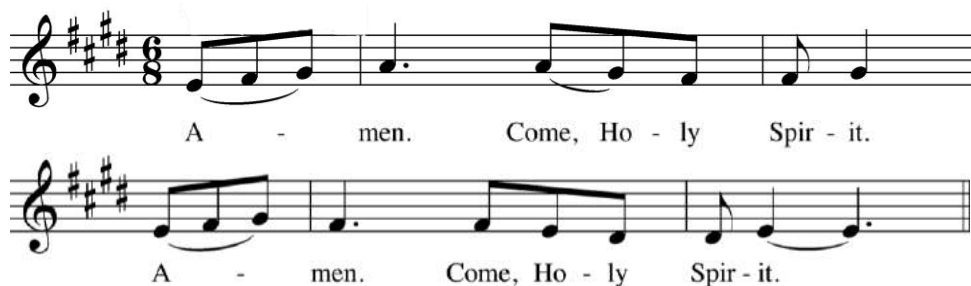
... Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to you,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:



Drink and re - member: this is my prom - ise,
giv - en for you, mer - cy for all.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

In our remembrance and in this meal,
reshape us by your Spirit, O God.
Fill our hearts to overflowing with Christ's life.
Unite us in bearing bread and love and hope to all.



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

The Spirit within us, Christ Jesus beside us,
we bless you, God behind and before us,
our praise but one part of the unending song. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION: SHARING THE MEAL

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table. **Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish to receive, ushers will invite you forward. The pastor will place a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker in your cupped hand as you hear "Body of Christ, given for you." In the brass trays are cups of red wine or golden grape juice. Take a small cup as you hear, "Cup of Christ, given for you." You may respond with "Amen," "Thank you," or with quiet acceptance.

If you cannot come forward but wish to receive communion or a blessing, please let an usher know and the servers will come to you. If for any reason you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing with your arms crossed over your chest.

As we celebrate Communion, you may join in singing:

Lamb of God

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It features a repeat sign with a first ending bracket. The second staff continues the melody, with a 2/4 time signature change and a final repeat sign with a key signature change to one sharp (F#).

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN

Come, Let Us Eat

#491

✠ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Now may the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **God of the abundant table, in this meal you have refreshed us with bread for the journey. Sustain us with your grace that we might serve our neighbors with joy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

✠ BENEDICTION

based on Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of the everlasting covenant, who brought back the great shepherd from the dead, equip you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that you may live to the glory of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

Heaven Shall Not Wait

see next page

✠ SENDING

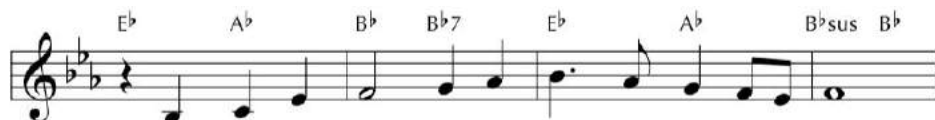
Go in peace. As you are blessed, be a blessing.
We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Heaven Shall Not Wait



1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i - de - as,
 4 Heaven shall not wait for tri - um - phant Hal - le - lu - jahs,



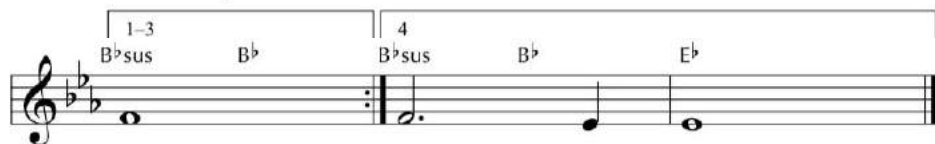
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
 the proud to fall, the e - lite to tend the least:
 thoughts of com - pas - sion di - vorced from cries of pain:
 when earth has passed and we reach an - oth - er shore:



Je - sus is Lord; he has cham - pioned the un - want - ed;
 Je - sus is Lord; he has shown the mas - ter's priv - ilege:
 Je - sus is Lord; he has mar - ried word and ac - tion;
 Je - sus is Lord in our pres - ent im - per - fec - tion;



in him in - jus - tice con - fronts its time - ly
 to kneel and wash ser - vants' feet be - fore they
 his cross and com - pa - ny make his pur - pose
 his power and love are for now and then for



end. ev - er - more.
 feast.
 plain.



ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming

Worship with us Sundays at 10am

1500 6th St NE, Minneapolis MN 55413 • 612-788-2444

www.gracenempls.org

We are called
to love God,
serve neighbors, and
tell the story of Jesus Christ,
welcoming all.



Help love reach
beyond these walls.
Scan this QR code with
your phone's camera
app to give online.

We're the home of
Little Kitchen Food Shelf
a no-boundaries, no-restrictions
food shelf serving all people.

Little Kitchen
FoodShelf 

Wednesday & Friday 10am to Noon
Tuesday & Thursday 6pm to 7:30pm
at Door 3 on the 5th Street NE side of the building.

Grace Center
for community life

We're the founders of
Grace Center for Community Life
empowering lives through
faith, learning, and service.

Interested in reserving space at Grace Center?
Call 612-810-6988 or email Lorrie@GraceCtr.org