

September 28, 2025
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF CREATION
Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado
Rooted in Grace + Reaching Out in Christ's Love



Welcome To Grace

In response to Christ's boundless love, members of Grace share that love by inviting all — regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation — to come and participate in the life of Grace. We are glad you are joining us for this worship service!

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

# PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE

**Presiding Minister** Pastor Matthew Weber **Assisting Minister** Ron Schwiesow Communion Server Greg Niesen Carol Dozier Lector Pianist & Organist Boyd Hamilton **Lead Singers** Alice Del Simone - soprano, Whitney Robinson – alto Simon Daum – tenor, Davian Raggio – tenor, Luke North – bass Altar Guild Mikki Matheson, Donna Rohde, and Susan Swaeby Financial Counters Nan Schwiesow & Susan Swaeby Digital Worship Coordinator Amy Stewart McIntosh

#### **GATHERING**

#### MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **CONFESSION**

Trusting that we belong to Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Creator God,

God of the oceans,

God of the land and all that is within it:

You created this world with the power of your word.

You formed humankind with your own hands,

and breathed your own breath into us.

You gave us these lands as a gift -

a source of our identity and sustenance.

You empowered us to be the guardians of what you have made.

## Loving God,

we have failed you and abused the gift you have given us.

We have offended you and defiled what you have made.

Forgive us for betraying your trust.

Forgive us for our greed and arrogance.

Forgive us for what we have done to your Earth.

Forgive us for what we have done to your oceans.

Forgive us for what we have done to your creatures – on the land, in the sky, and in the depths.

## **FORGIVENESS**

People of God,

Before we know our sins.

Jesus Christ says to us, "your sins are forgiven".

Our Loving God, Creator of all time and space,
promising us a new heaven and a new earth
has mercy on us, + frees us from sin,
and guides us into the fullness of Life in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen. Thanks be to God!



Fext: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901 Ausic: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

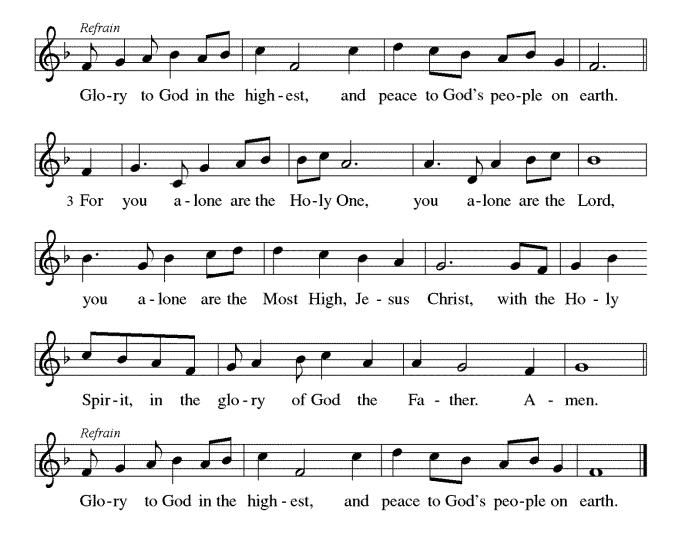
#### **GREETING**

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

And also with you.

### **GLORIA**





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everliving God,

you bring forth and sustain every living thing; help us grow in compassion and care for the multitude of your creatures, that we may see them not as objects for our use, but as siblings who sing your never-ending praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and guide, who with you and the Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen

#### **WORD**

## FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

- <sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
- <sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,
- <sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,
- <sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

#### **PSALM: Psalm 146**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
  - <sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- <sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.
  - <sup>4</sup> When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.
- <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
  - <sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
- <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
  - <sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
  - <sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19**

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

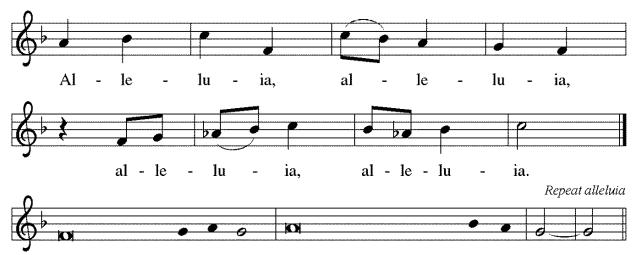
<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

#### **GOSPEL:** Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner

evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

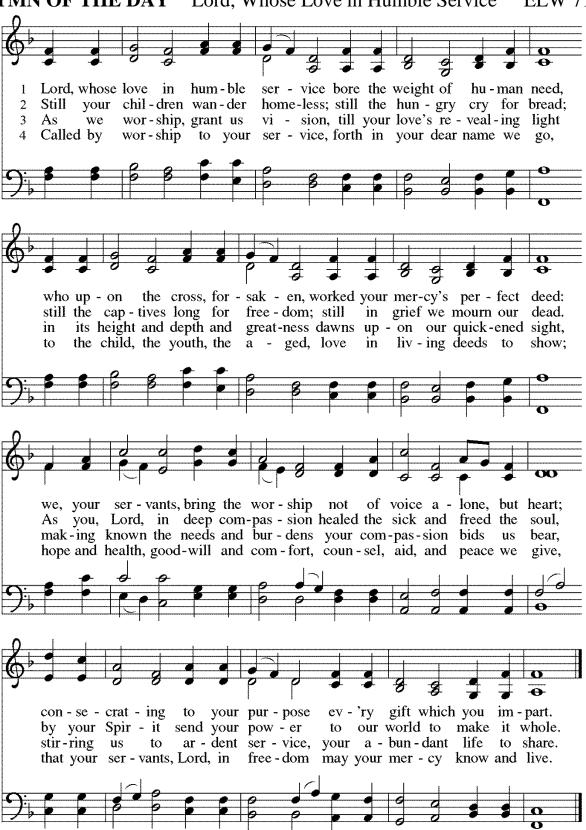
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** 

Pastor Matthew Weber

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW 712



#### **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church; that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation; that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in positions of authority; that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for every single person and community. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for people in any need; that they know your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. Hold in your care especially those who we name before you now ... God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation; that we would be strengthened to work toward building a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace, *receive our prayer*.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

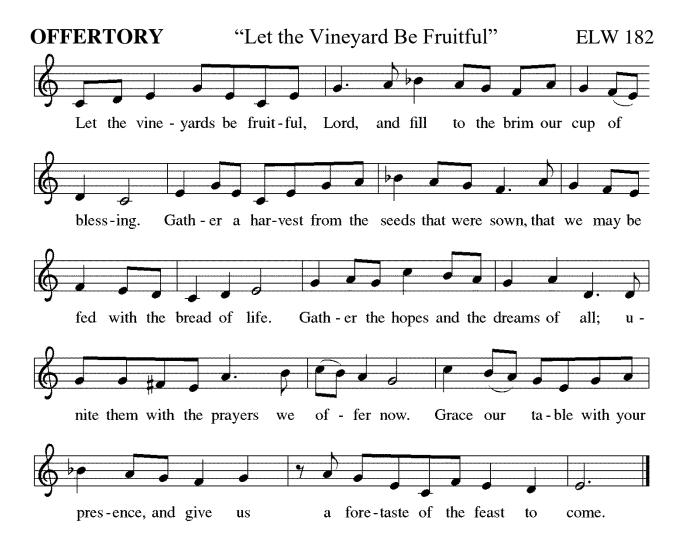
**ANTHEM** "All Nature's Works His Praise Declare"

Butler

#### **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING**

Our gifts to God's work in the world reflect our thanksgiving for the many gifts God has given us. Thank you for your offerings which support God's work here at Grace, and for your offerings which support the work God does through other agencies and organizations.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

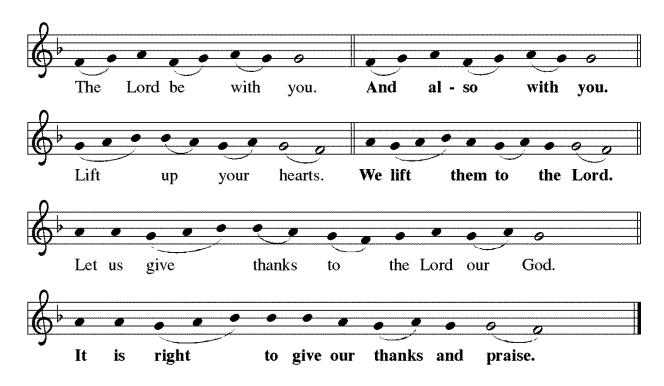
### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Creating God, with gratitude and generosity we return to you and to your work that which has come into our hands. Give us joy in our giving, wisdom in our spending, and your peace in our hearts as we together yearn for the good of the earth in all times and places. We pray through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

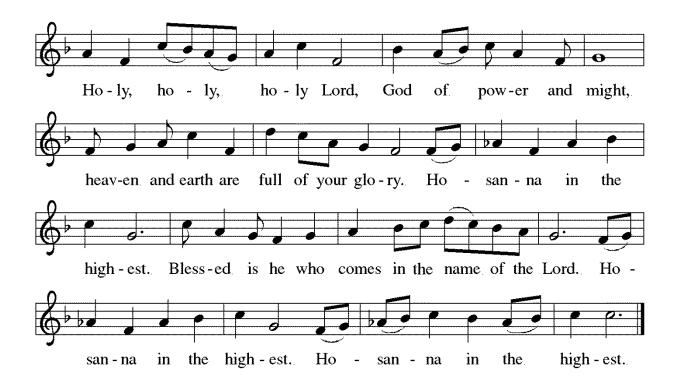
### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



### PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right ... their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS**



## **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

God of all creation,

You spoke the Word ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Send upon us, and upon all your creation, your life giving Spirit who first moved upon the waters of the deep. To you O God be all honor and glory today and always.



#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

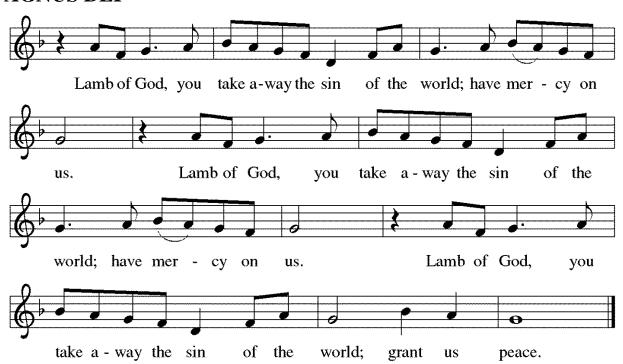
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

The bread of life, the cup of salvation *Thanks be to God.* 

This is God's table. We invite all who are hungry for Christ's presence in their lives to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table. For those who are not in the sanctuary: if you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God's grace is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness. Further, those of you who might not receive communion for whatever reason, please recognize and understand that God's forgiveness and mercy and love are fully and completely provided to you in ways additional to Holy Communion.

#### **AGNUS DEI**





Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

#### **BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ Strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. *Amen.* 

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

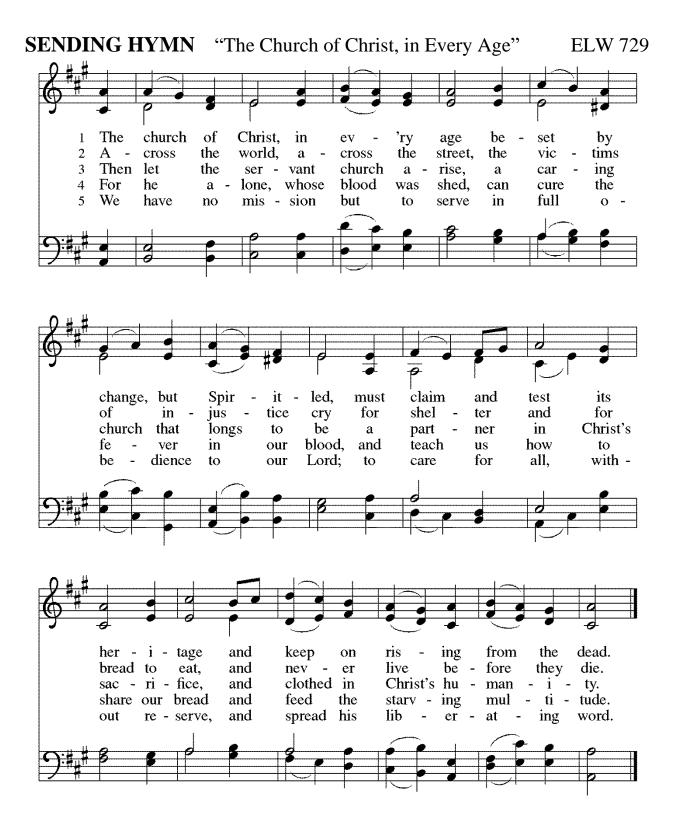
Let us pray.

Creator God,

You set the tree of life at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church.

Grant that we who have been nourished at this table may ever strive to work for the good of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **SENDING**



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768 Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **BENEDICTION**

Go out into the world rejoicing.

and may the blessing of the God of all creation,

Eternal Father,

Risen Son +

and Promised Holy Spirit be upon you,

that you might be a blessing to others today and always.

\*\*Amen.\*\*

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

## INVITATION TO SERVICE

Scripture Readings for October 5: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

**September 28, 2025** 

#### We pray for those **grieving the death of**:

• Phillip Schmitt (Charley Zabel's cousin)

#### We pray for those **undergoing treatment**:

- Elita (Moira Matheson's friend in Scotland) undergoing treatment for terminal cancer
- Pr. Ron Roschke receiving treatment for cancer
- Hugh Ouellette (John Laitinen's cousin)
- Paul Herzegh (Mary and Charley Zabel's friend) receiving treatment for cancer
- Marilyn Engelbredt (Sandi Stahl's friend) receiving treatment for cancer
- Tony Pappas (John Laitinen's friend)
- Marsha Herrmann receiving treatment for cancer
- Margurite DuPont (Tom Dozier's childhood friend) fighting metastatic breast cancer
- Karen O'Loughlin's Godchild
- Robert Reish (Sandi Stahl's friend)

#### We pray for **hope and healing** for:

- Carolyn Fuhrman (Charley Zabel's sister) in rehab for a broken arm and sprained ankle due to a fall
- Mikki Matheson
- all those impacted by the flash flooding in Alaska, New Mexico, New York, and New Jersey
- Lester Tepe (Nelda Gamble's brother) in Hospice care in Florida
- Guy Heyl (Mary Zabel's friend) healing from a diagnosis of heart failure
- Sherrill Schneider (Hiroko Akima's friend)
- Ray Phillips (Karen O'Loughlin's brother-in-law) recovering at home
- all those impacted by the war in Iran
- all those affected by the Israel-Hamas War
- all those affected by the war against Ukraine
- all those affected by the conflict in Sudan
- Noah Laitinen (John Laitinen's nephew) working to recover after he was hit in a head-on drunk driving accident
- Nick Vanderborgh
- Donda Combs and Marie Jauncey (Hiroko Akima's friends)
- John Laitinen
- Coqui Stetson (John Laitinen's daughter) recovering from a car accident
- Emmanuel Rusaka
- Susan Hull (Patty Meyers' friend) with ALS and other concerns
- Carl Stubenrauch
- Allan Wolfe
- Pete Tafoya
- Rich Harris (John Laitinen's cousin)

## **Grace Partner in Ministry**

Grace's Partner in Mission (PiM) for September 2025 is: **Bread** + **Belonging**.

Bread + Belonging is a ministry at CU Boulder run by the Lutheran Campus Ministry and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. It provides a weekly free dinner and community space for students every Tuesday evening. The ministry aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where students can explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and find a sense of belonging.

Partnership: Bread + Belonging is a collaborative effort between Lutheran Campus Ministry and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

Weekly Dinner: The core activity is a weekly free dinner held every Tuesday evening, offering a space for students to connect, share a meal, and engage in conversation.

Inclusivity: The ministry emphasizes inclusivity and welcomes students of all backgrounds, including those who identify as LGBTQ+.

Spiritual Exploration: Bread + Belonging provides opportunities for students to explore their faith, participate in worship, and engage in service within the CU Boulder community and beyond.

Community Building: It fosters a sense of belonging and connection among students through shared meals, conversations, and various activities.

Leadership Development: The ministry also offers opportunities for students to develop leadership skills within the context of faith and community.

Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2025 up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "B+B" to the memo line. You may place checks in the mail slot at Grace, send through the US mail, or use our electronic giving option Simply Giving on the Grace website. Thank you for your generosity!

#### **Rooted in Grace**

**Lectionary Bible Study** continues this week on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 11 am. The readings for September 28, 2025, are:

- Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Wicked surround the righteous; wait for the LORD
- **Psalm 37:1-9** *Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.* (Ps. 37:5)
- 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Guard the treasure entrusted to you: faith and love in Christ
- Luke 17:5-10 Faith the size of a mustard seed

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Is there anyone who would like to host **Grace First Friday** on October 3? Let Pastor Matthew or Amy know.

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**Adult Ed** continues next week on October 5 at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall. We'll begin a series of a few weeks comparing the three Creeds – Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian.

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SAVE THE DATE for **Third Thursday Theology** on October 16.

### **Reaching Out in Christ's Love**



Remember **Harvest of Hope** food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. <u>Our donations make a difference</u> for those who struggle to find food each week.

Thank you for your donations of blank greeting cards for the inmates of **New Beginnings**. Your cards allow the women to communicate with loved ones. New Beginnings also has a new request, which is for us to help them fill their Cowboy's Closet, which is aimed at helping women leaving prison. Most women leave prison with less than \$300 available to them and are often in need of basic items. Bring any donations to Grace and Pastor Matthew and Amy will coordinate their delivery to New Beginnings with Pastor Samm.

#### This Week at Grace

## Sunday, September 28: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 am Adult Education, Fellowship Hall

10 am Sunday Worship, Sanctuary + YouTube

11:15 am Grace Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall

## Monday, September 29

7-8 pm NA, Fellowship Hall

7-8 pm NarAnon, Library

## Tuesday, September 30

12-1 pm Grace Staff Meeting, Zoom

6-7:30 Sing Out 4 Peace, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, October 1

11 am-12 pm Lectionary Bible Study, Zoom

7-8:15 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### Thursday, October 2

9:30am-12:30pm Quilters, Fellowship Hall

## Friday, October 3

5:30-7:30 pm Grace First Friday, location TBA

6-7 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

8-9 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

## Saturday, October 4

9 am-12 pm Organist Practice, Sanctuary

1pm-3pm Gene Steward Memorial Service and reception

## Sunday, October 5: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 am Adult Education, Fellowship Hall

10 am Sunday Worship, Sanctuary + YouTube

#### **Grace Church Staff**

Rev. Matthew Weber Boyd Hamilton Amy Stewart McIntosh Jody R Rayo Rodriguez

Pastor
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Financial Administrator
Custodian



The people of God at Grace Lutheran Church acknowledge that we live and move and have our being on the traditional land of the Ute, the Arapahoe, and the Cheyenne people – land where they lived, loved, drummed, danced, sang, prayed, and served as caretakers for many generations, long before this congregation was established.

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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