

August 17, 2025
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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!

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Matthew Weber
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Katherine Alexander
Communion Server	Greg Niesen
Lector	Greg Niesen
Pianist & Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Special Music	Carol Codrescu, flute
Altar Guild	Mikki Matheson, Donna Rohde, and Susan Swaeby
Usher	Mihail Codrescu
<b>Financial Counters</b>	Greg Niesen & Nan Schiewsow
Grounds	David Bartlett
Digital Worship Coor	rdinator Amy Stewart McIntosh

#### **GATHERING**

### MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

"Romanza, Op. 33"

Altes

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ⊕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

you free us to love each other,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Heal us from our bondage to sin,
and lead us to the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

# **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**



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;





Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:





we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen - dor bright.





Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God,

judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **WORD**

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

### **PSALM: Psalm 82**

- <sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
  - <sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?
- <sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
  - <sup>4</sup>rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
  - <sup>6</sup>Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;
- <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"
  - <sup>8</sup>Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so

closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL:** Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

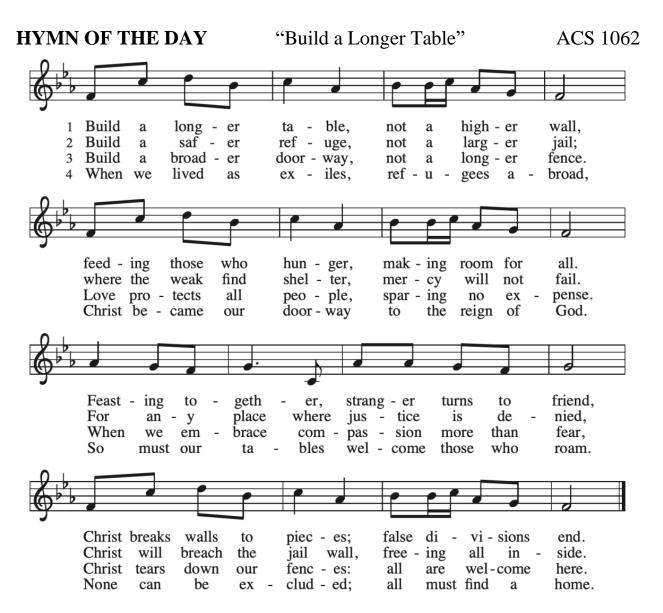
[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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### **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

### A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality alongside our partners in the gospel around the world. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers, that they will enact policies which protect our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Hold in your care especially those we know and love who we name before you now ... Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the great cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join with them in singing unending praise to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. *And also with you.* 

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Siesta from Summer Music"

Bennett

#### **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.

**OFFERTORY** ELW 188



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts which we return to you, that together we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

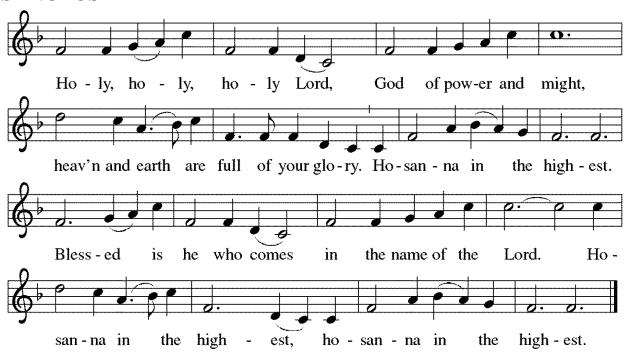
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we join their unending hymn:

# **SANCTUS**

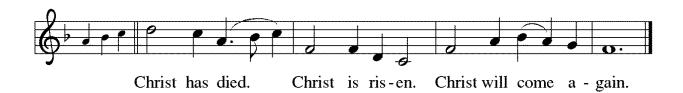


### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; gave thanks, he gave it to them saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery or our faith.



Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness.

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 gifts of God for the people of God *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: African American spiritual Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

# **BLESSING**

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

\*\*Amen.\*\*

### **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Caring God,

you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **SENDING**



Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

### **BENEDICTION**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

\*\*Amen.\*\*

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### INVITATION TO SERVICE

Scripture Readings for August 24<sup>th</sup>: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 17, 2025

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

Gene Steward

#### 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:

- 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
- Mary Holzwarth (Hiroko Akima's surrogate mother) in renal 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 August 2025 is: **The Himalayan Development Foundation.** 

Mr. Karma Sherpa started the Himalayan Development Foundation with a focus on helping those in rural areas in the Khumbu region of Nepal. Karma was born and raised in the small village of Cherlemu growing up in poverty. He now lives in Superior, Colorado, and uses the Foundation to help those in need in his home country, especially with access to care through a periodic medical clinic. Access to medical care and vaccines is only available in large cities like Kathmandu; many remote villages do not have roads...much less transportation. People must walk.

During the pandemic, folks in Khumbu lost jobs and income due to a lack of tourists, and the medical clinic was on hold. The clinic was resumed two years ago at the monastery in Taksindu where residents were treated free of charge.

The clinic will be on the Monastery grounds in early November for 4 to 5 days. The need has grown, and they plan to utilize Nepalese physicians, nurses, and volunteers again.

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 "Himalayan" 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**

There's still time to sign up for **Summer Special Music**. <u>Talk to Boyd</u> if you are available and interested.

We resume our regular Fall schedule of 10 am Sunday Worship on September 7.

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**Lectionary Bible Study** continues this week on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 11 am. The readings for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, August 24, 2025, are:

- Isaiah 58:9b-14 Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry
- Psalm 103:1-8 The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)
- **Hebrews 12:18-29** *You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus*
- Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned

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**Third Thursday Theology** resumes this Thursday, August 21. <u>Meet at Back</u> Country Pizza at 5:30 pm for a lively discussion of *Eternal Live*.

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**Adult Ed** takes a break for the summer. See you in the Fall when we resume Adult Ed on September 14.

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

**Lutheran Campus Ministry** is looking for volunteers from Grace to provide salads, desserts, and drinks for approximately 40 people for their weekly Tuesday evening dinners on September 16, 23, and 30.

The dinners are the anchor program of Bread + Belonging, which is a collaborative effort between Lutheran Campus Ministry and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. <u>Text Hiroko Akima to get on the schedule and coordinate delivery</u>. Grace volunteers are welcome to stay for dinner, which takes place at 6 pm at St. Aidan's Church at 2425 Colorado Avenue.

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.

<u>Thank you for your donations of blank greeting cards</u> 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, August 17: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday Worship, Sanctuary + YouTube

# Monday, August 18

7-8 pm NA, Fellowship Hall

7-8 pm NarAnon, Library

# Tuesday, August 19

12-1 pm Grace Staff Meeting, Zoom

# Wednesday, August 20

11 am-12 pm Lectionary Bible Study, Zooms

## Thursday, August 21

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

5:30-7 pm Third Thursday Theology, Back Country Pizza

# Friday, August 22

6-7 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

8-9 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

# Saturday, August 23

9 am-12 pm Organist Practice, Sanctuary

# Sunday, August 24: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday Worship, Sanctuary + YouTube

11 am Grace Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall

### **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 before this congregation was established.

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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