

July 27, 2025 SEVENTH 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!

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE		
Presiding Minister	Pastor Allan Bjornberg	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Katherine Alexander	
Communion Server	Greg Niesen	
Lector	Hiroko Akima	
Pianist & Organist	Anne Peterson	
Special Music	Sebastian Schmidt	
Altar Guild	Mikki Matheson, Donna Rohde, and Susan Swaeby	
Usher	Mihail Codrescu	
<b>Financial Counters</b>	Tom Dozier & Greg Niesen	
Grounds	Ron Schiewsow	
Digital Worship Coor	dinator Amy Stewart McIntosh	

#### **GATHERING**

#### MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh Sebastian Schmidt, baritone

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\oplus$  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  $\oplus$  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!

# **GATHERING HYMN** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW 742



Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

# **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.

Almighty and ever-living God,

you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# **WORD**

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

#### **PSALM: Psalm 138**

- <sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
  - <sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- <sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
  - <sup>4</sup> All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.
  - <sup>6</sup> The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
  - <sup>8</sup>You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

#### **SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-19**

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL:** Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** 

Pastor Allan Bjornberg



Text: William Walford, 1772-1850, alt.

Music: SWEET HOUR, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

#### **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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

### A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you through prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person, so that your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Hold in your care especially those we name before you now ... Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen community partnerships, and feeding, clothing, housing, and prison ministries. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Weepin' Mary" Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh Sebastian Schmidt, baritone

## **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

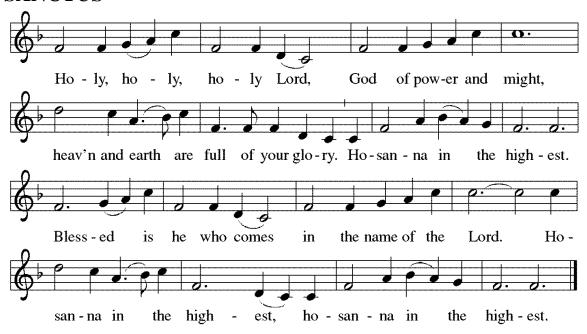
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### PROPER PREFACE

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

## **SANCTUS**

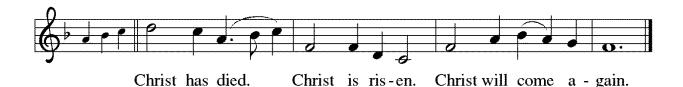


#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.\*\*

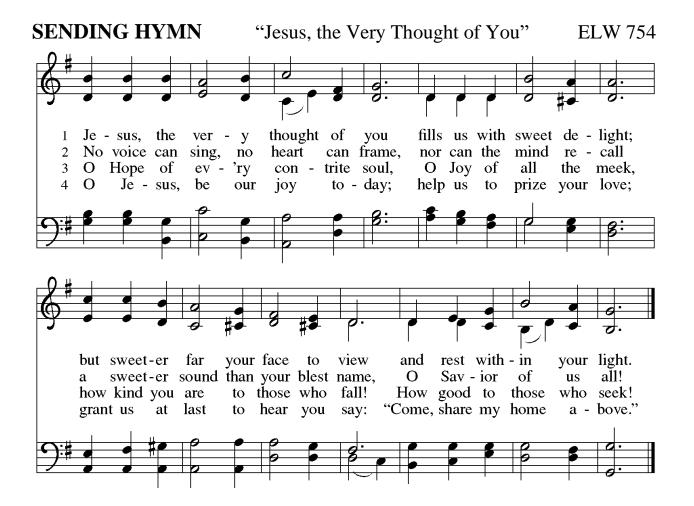
# **PRAYER**

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. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

#### **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**

"My Lord, What a Mornin" Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh Sebastian Schmidt, baritone

Scripture Readings for August 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

July 27, 2025

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

Mary Dorsett

#### 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:

- all those impacted by the flash flooding in Texas, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Indiana, and South Korea
- Lester Tepe (Nelda Gamble's brother) in Hospice care in Florida
- Mikki Matheson recovering from an illness
- Guy Heyl (Mary Zabel's friend) with 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
- Noah Laitinen (John Laitinen's nephew) working to recover after he was hit in a head-on drunk driving accident
- Nick Vanderborgh
- all those affected 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
- 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 July 2025 is: New Beginnings.

New Beginnings Worshipping Community is a Lutheran mission church that holds regular in-person worship services inside Denver Women's Correctional Facility for all who wish to join. Their community includes pastors, Inside Council, Outside Council, volunteers, and residents. Their mission is to restore shattered lives to wholeness through the love of Jesus Christ. Read more at www.newbeginningswc.org.

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 "New Beginnings" 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, July 30, 2025, at 11 am. The readings for the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, August 3, 2025, are:

- Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Search out wisdom, for all is vanity
- Psalm 49:1-12 My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)
- Colossians 3:1-11 Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden with him in God
- Luke 12:13-21 Jesus says: Be on guard against greed; be rich toward God, your treasure

It's time to sign up for <b>Sur</b> available and interested.	mmer Special Music. <u>Talk to Boyd</u> if you are
Would anyone like to host Matthew or Amy know.	the August First Friday event? Let Pastor

Adult Ed takes a break for the summer. See you in the Fall!

# **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, July 27: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday Worship, Sanctuary + YouTube

## Monday, July 28

7-8 pm NA, Fellowship Hall

7-8 pm NarAnon, Library

# Tuesday, July 29

12-1 pm Grace Staff Meeting, Zoom

### Wednesday, July 30

11 am-12 pm Lectionary Bible Study, Zoom

## Thursday, July 31

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

# Friday, August 1

5:30-7:30 pm First Friday Event, TBA

6-7 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

8-9 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

# Saturday, August 2

9 am-12 pm Organist Practice, Sanctuary

# Sunday, August 3: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 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 before this congregation was established.

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1001 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder Colorado 80302 | Phone 303.442.1883 A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.graceboulder.org office@graceboulder.org | matthew@graceboulder.org