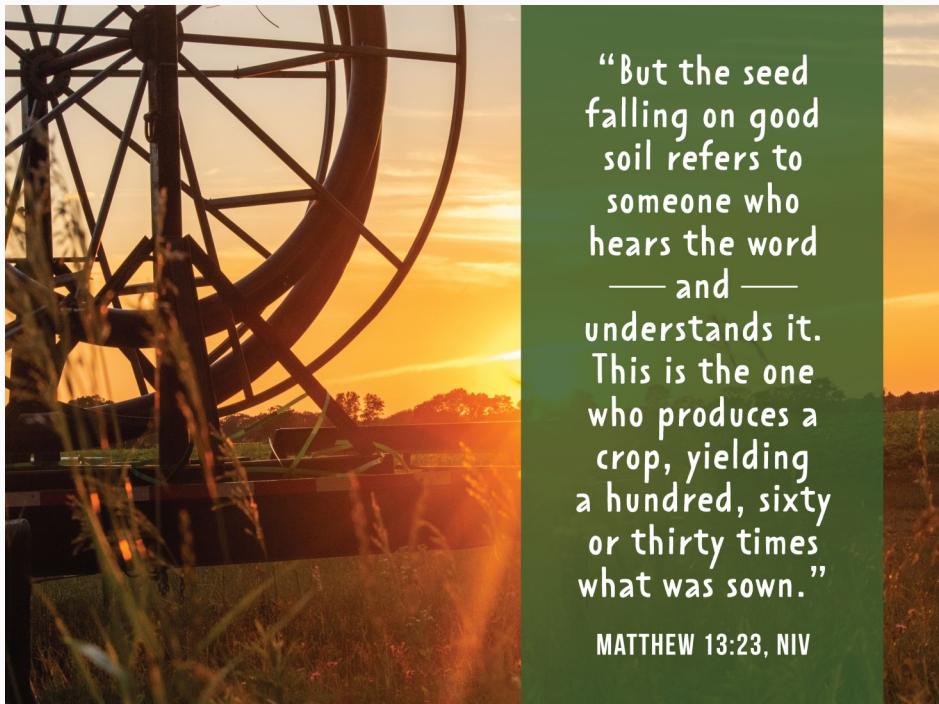


AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA WORSHIP SERVICE



“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word — and — understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 16, 2023
10:00 am**

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
160 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, NJ 07932 – Tel. 973-377-7425
Rev. Beau D. Nelson, Pastor

Our Mission: Trust in God's Grace. Show it. Share it.

Our Vision: To support and enrich lives through God's grace.

Welcome to Amazing Grace! We are so glad that you have joined us for worship today!

We are a congregation of the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA, the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States. The ELCA's tagline is "God's Work, Our Hands" which reflects God's call to love and serve our neighbors through our actions.

Amazing Grace was recently formed by the merger of our two predecessor congregations: Saint Mark Lutheran Church of Morristown and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Florham Park.

If you have any questions about our congregation or would like information about becoming a member of Amazing Grace, feel free to speak to the pastor following the service.

A Note about Holy Communion at Amazing Grace

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday and all are welcome to partake in the sacrament at the Lord's Table. Parents can determine if they wish their children to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. When you come to the altar you may stand or kneel.

The presiding minister places the bread/wafer in our hand (gluten-free wafers are available). The Worship Assistant will offer a tray of pre-filled wine and grape juice, with the grape juice in the 7 center cups. Another alter server will collect your empty cup, and you may return to your seat. If you wish to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms as you come to the altar.

GATHERING

Prelude**Welcome****Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of \dagger Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #790 "Day By Day"

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - obey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Apostolic 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.**

Hymn of Praise—ELW #819 “Come, All You People”

1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65:1--13

Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

[You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²To you, the one who answers prayer,

to you all flesh shall come.

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**⁶You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your marvelous signs;**

you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty.

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches

away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Table of Hope Presentation

Sermon: Rev. Beau D. Nelson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #697 "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Ref.
 Who with me my bur-den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Ref.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. Ref.

Praise Reports

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

(Please remain seated.)

Let there be peace on earth
 And let it begin with me
 Let There Be Peace on Earth
 The peace that was meant to be
 With God as our Father
 Fam'ly all are we
 Let us walk with each other
 In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
 Let this be the moment now.
 With ev'ry step I take
 Let this be my solemn vow
 To take each moment and live
 Each moment in peace eternally
 Let there be peace on earth
 And let it begin with me

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Hymn: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

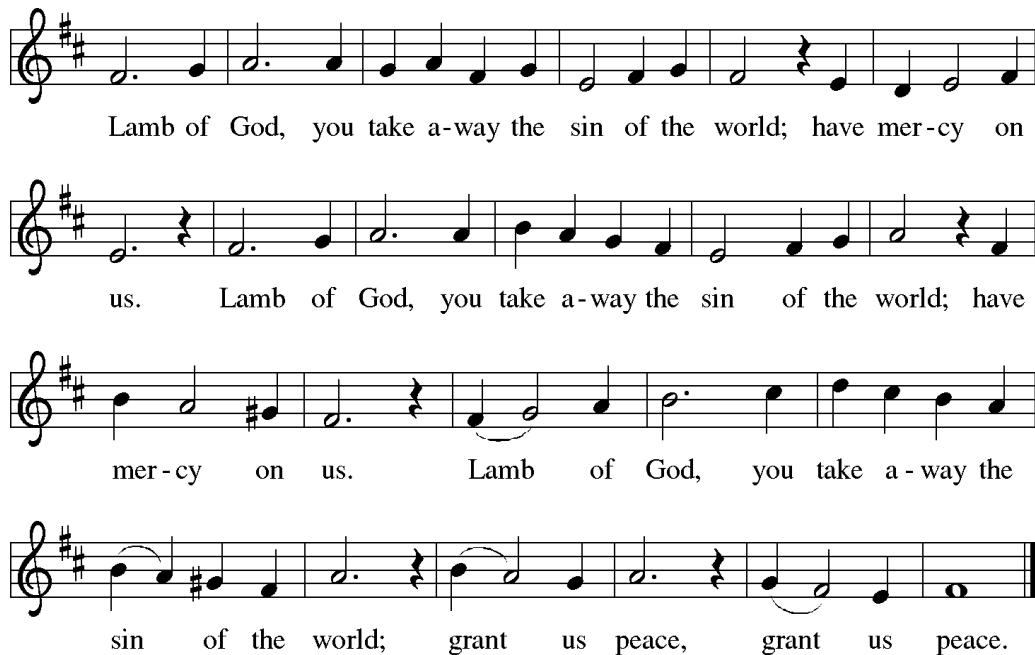
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

Lamb of God



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.

Distribution of Communion

(See note on page 2 regarding our practice of Holy Communion.)

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING**Announcements****Benediction**

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
☩ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #546 “To Be in Your Presence”

1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold,
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Beau D. Nelson

Organist: Ralph Petersen

Media Tech: Tara Kevorkian

Worship Assistant: Andrea Sullivan

Lector: John Sullivan

Usher: Bud Vincent

Sunday, July 23rd

Worship Assistant: Bob Burkhardt

Lector: Donna Mertz-Burkhardt

Usher: Larry Rehm

PRAYER LISTS FOR WEEK OF JULY 16th

(Note: New entries appear in Bold Font)

Our Church Family: Marty Schwartz; Ron Bauer; Dick Zeien; Irene Nagle; Kathy Briedis; Carla & Wolf Bauer; Patty Chadwick

Friends and Family: **Blain P.; Sam P.; Patti Nordling (Cookie Davidsen); Ray Burkhardt;** Matt Garvey; Chris Schwins; Heli Howe; Kathy Anderson; Ray Burkhardt; Alan Jacobus; Stan Kasiski; Robert & Marianne Mangels; Pam Strode; Nancy Martin; Doris Gero; Ron Brodeur; Dina Campbell; Steve DiGioia; John Brennan; Bill Ruha; Tom McGough; David Estes; Becky Cram (friend of Roy Root); Bob Newhouse; Bill Jardine; Peter Rinaldi; Ed Denton; Vince Bober; Doris Felmore; Melissa Kelly; Herbert Holly; Ralph Swinburne; Joe Mihalko; Joe Caparo; Cathy Caparo; Gene & Al Clelland; Ruth Moolin; Bob Swanson; Nancy and Jeff Martin; John Holl; Joy Griffith; Leslie Spohn; Pauline Morris; Winnie A. Maroney; Lina Petrullo; Janice Bitondo; Eileen & Dave Word; John West; Brian Goldrich & Barbara Gemma; and Robert Zeien; Kathy McKeown (friend of Donna Mertz-Burkhardt), Theresa Schild (mother of Alexis Nelson); Joe Canorelli (friend of Bob Burkhardt); Geri Monetti (Former Member); Patty Barnes & Family (Daughter of Carla & Wolf Bauer); Bonny and Bob Caridad (Bob Burkhardt's Sister and Husband); Janet (Friend of Carla Bauer); June Mueller (Cousin of Donna Mertz-Burkhardt); Stanley Nagy (Brother of Carla Bauer); Brian Vohs (Nephew of Gail Glennon)

The Family Of: Shirley Yannich; Roger Jerolaman (Sullivan Family)

IN THE WORLD:

Those affected by the wildfires in Canada; The People of Ukraine; All who are suffering from the Coronavirus Pandemic

NOTE: If you have any announcements or prayer requests to add or delete, please call 973-377-2574 or email: ingrid.davidsen10@gmail.com