



This Sunday

*9am Sunday
Discussion Group
(Bethlehem Resource
Center)*

*9:30am Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall)*

*10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)*

*11:30am Town Hall
(Fellowship Hall)*

Connect With Us

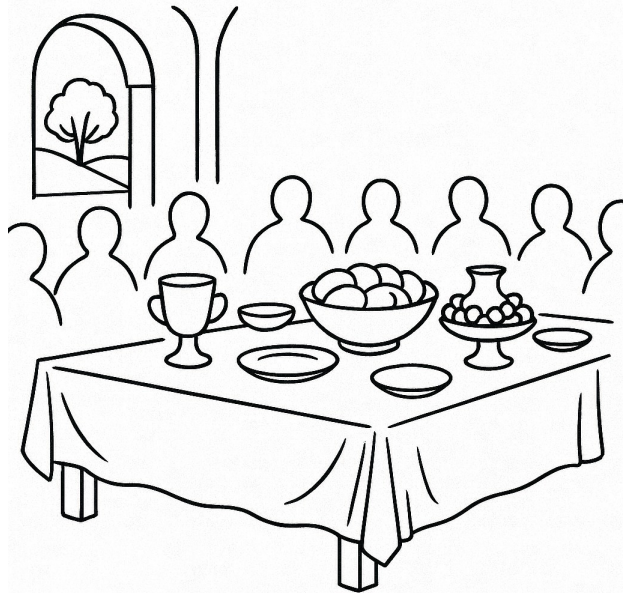
www.gracedurham.org

Copies of the week's
announcements are
located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our
eNews via email,
please contact
office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 31, 2025
12th Sunday after Pentecost



David H. Brooks, Pastor

*We go with Good News, teaching, serving,
and sharing Christ with our neighbors.*

TODAY'S VERSE:

*"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

-Luke 4:11

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!

We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 15.

If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself.

If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see.

We welcome children in worship services.

Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

INSIGHT INTO TODAY'S READINGS

We Are Humbled and Exalted by the Cross of Christ

"Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled," Jesus proclaims, but "he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11). For your hope is in the name of the Lord, Who humbled Himself unto death on the cross and was exalted in His resurrection. So, are you humbled by His cross, and "at the resurrection of the just," He will say to you, "Friend, move up higher" (Luke 14:10, 13–14)? By His grace, the King will honor you "in the presence of a noble," where your eyes will gaze upon the Prince, His dearly beloved Son (Prov. 25:7). As He has dealt so graciously with you, "do not neglect to do good and to share what you have" (Heb. 13:16), and "do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers" (Heb. 13:2). Humble yourself and exalt your neighbor.

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8)*

Silence is provided for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

In this time, you may present to God any particular issue that is weighing on your heart or stealing your peace. If you are particularly troubled, you are welcome to seek private confession with the Pastor.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN — *God Himself Is Present* (LSB 907)



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him
 2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
 3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His
 See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Trust-ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in
 ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and
 an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease-less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne
 an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:
 ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!
 Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.
 Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, alt.; tr. John Miller, alt.; Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–80, Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE — (WOV 602)



1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



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

Music: Russian Orthodox

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray . . .

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 25:2–10 (pg. 546)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 25th Chapters of Proverbs.

²It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. ³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place

of the great, ⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

⁸do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, ¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 131 – *My Soul is Still* (Gather Comp. 129)

Congregation sings refrain



1 My heart is not proud, my eyes not above You; You fill my soul. I am not filled with great things, nor with thoughts beyond me.

Refrain

2 My soul is still, my soul stays quiet, longing for You like a weaned child in its mother's arms; so is my soul a child with You.

Refrain.

Text: Psalm 131; Text and Music: Davis Haas. Reprinted / Streamed with Permission under One License #A-701734.

The Epistle Lesson is from the 13th Chapter of Hebrews.

¹Let brotherly love continue.

²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited

those devoted to them.

¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.

¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.

¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured.

¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

¹⁵Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1–14 (Pew Bible, pg. 873)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th Chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching Him carefully.

²And behold, there was a man before Him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴But they remained silent.

Then He took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And He said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?”

⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them,

⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you,

‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the man who had invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid.

¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY — *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (LSB 842)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew-ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.
Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contredansen, c. 1710, Amsterdam
Text and tune: Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED *(spoken in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

† meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people
according to their needs. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

P Lord in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your
mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

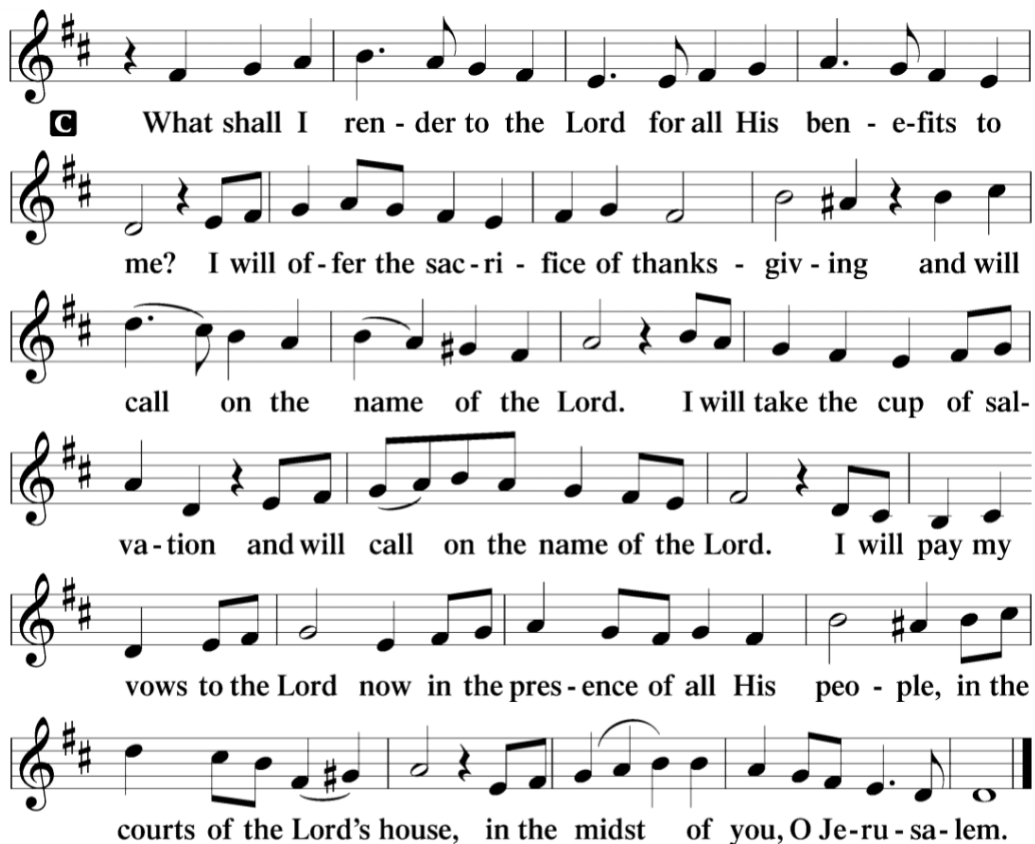
C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

OUR LORD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Through Abraham You promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, Your chosen people. Through the prophets You renewed Your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, You sent Your Son, Who in words and deeds proclaimed Your kingdom and was obedient to Your will, even to giving His life.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

P Remembering, therefore, His death, resurrection, and ascension, we await His coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

AGNUS DEI

■ 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16). We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

[For silent prayer before communing]

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having With my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Your Table I Approach* (LSB 628)



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

**5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.**

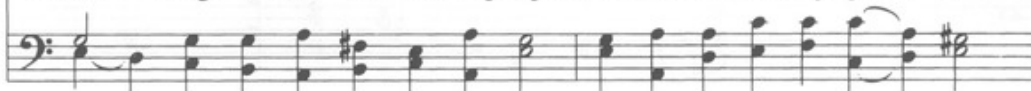
**6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.**

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

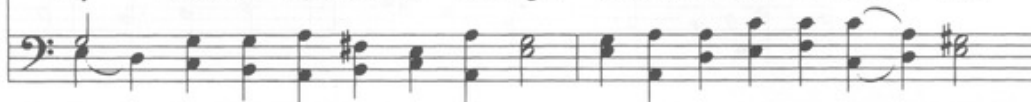
DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *From Depths of Woe* (Trinity Hymnal 554)



1. From depths of woe I raise to thee the voice of lam - en - ta - tion;
 2. To wash a - way the crim - son stain, grace, grace a - lone a - vail - eth;
 3. There - fore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own mer - it;
 4. What though I wait the live - long night, and till the dawn ap - pear - eth,



Lord, turn a gra - cious ear to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion;
 our works, a - las! are all in vain; in much the best life fail - eth:
 on him my soul shall rest, his Word up - holds my faint - ing spir - it;
 my heart still trust - eth in his might; it doubt - eth not nor fear - eth:



(continues)

if thou in - iq - ui - ties dost mark, our se - cret sins
no man can glo - ry in thy sight, all must a - like
his prom - ised mer - cy is my fort, my com - fort, and
do thus, O ye of Is - rael's seed, ye of the Spir -

and mis - deeds dark, O who shall stand be - fore thee?
con - fess thy might, and live a - lone by mer - cy.
my sweet sup - port; I wait for it with pa - tience.
it born in - deed; and wait till God ap - pear - eth.

Text and Music: Martin Luther, Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT, Public Domain

THANK THE LORD

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the promised feast in the Holy Supper. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout the days of our pilgrimage that, on the day of the Lord's approach, we may, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom that has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN — *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It* (LSB 594)



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
5 There is noth - ing worth com-par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957; Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt.
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(continues)



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
font I've trav - eled, All your might has
dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
did re - lease me In a dear for -
come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

DISMISSAL

- P** Where do you go?
- C** **Into the world! Christ sends us that we may tell the Good News of the Kingdom of God.**
- P** Then go in peace; rejoice in God; love one another.
- C** **In the name of Christ! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Musician

Erin Hodge,
organist

Reader

Chris Wethman

Altar Guild

Amy Robertson,
setup and
clean up

Communion

Assistant

Jenna Young

A/V Operator

Joe Wethman

Ushers

Frank Oruwari
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Greeter

Kathy Pittman

UPCOMING AT GRACE

Saturday, Sept. 13 - Grace Farmers Market (1pm-4pm)

*Sunday, Sept. 14 - Deaconess Anna Voelker Commissioning
and Installation (10:10am)*

*Visit our website at gracedurham.org/news for the full
calendar of events and small group (PALS) meetings.*



Grace Lutheran Church

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919.682.6030

Livestream



Scan the QR code above or
visit

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309-205-3325, 312-626-
6799, 305-224-1968

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Passcode: 9196826030

Giving



Grace Generous Giving
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provides a simple and secure
method of giving.

Hover over the QR code with
your phone camera and it
will take you to our giving
page to make a donation.