



This Sunday

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

9:30am Fellowship Time
(Fellowship Hall)

10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)

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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 24, 2025
St. Bartholomew, Apostle



Rev. Steve Saxe, Supply/Interim Pastor

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

TODAY'S VERSE:

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened,
and the angels of God ascending and descending
on the Son of Man." -John 1:51*

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
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

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Christ's preachers are not to be great lords, but servants who faithfully stay with Christ in His trials (Luke 22:24–30). They are "jars of clay"; the Savior they preach is the "surpassing power" (2 Cor. 4:7). Christ's servants are "afflicted in every way," "always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested" there (2 Cor. 4:8–10). On the foundation of their prophetic and apostolic confession, the Church is built, "joined together" by Christ, "the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20–21). As an apostle (Luke 6:13–14), Bartholomew manifested "the Son of God" in his preaching and his death. Christ is the "Son of Man" — the King Who opens heaven to us by His wounds (John 1:49–51). We bear sufferings not leaning "on [our] own understanding," but trusting in the Lord (Prov. 3:5–7). Life will be manifested in our bodies, too, when the Lord brings "healing to [our] flesh and refreshment to [our] bones" in the resurrection (Prov. 3:8).

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 — *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (LSB 964)



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing Till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning skies,
Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry feet
Thou who hast by Thy might Led us in - to the light,



Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
Come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee;



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get Thee;



Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new day be - gun,
Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we stand at last
Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for - ev - er stand,



Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James Weldon
Johnson, , Tune: J.
Rosamond Johnson,
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,

(continues
next page)

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (CONTINUED)



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 . . .

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, chose Bartholomew to be an apostle to preach the blessed Gospel. Grant that Your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through 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 3:1–8 (Pew Bible, pg. 528)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 3rd Chapter of Proverbs.

¹My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my
commandments,

²for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.

³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness
forsake you; bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths.

⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

(continues on next page)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 – *I Lift Up My Eyes* (Gather Comp. 118)

Refrain



Verses

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.
2. The Lord is your guard and your shade, for ever by your side.
By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.
3. The Lord ever watches over you, the guardian of your soul.
The Lord will guard your coming and your going now and for ever.

Text: Psalm 121:1-2, 5-6, 7-8; Michel Guimont
Music: Michel Guimont
© 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:7–10 (Pew Bible, pg. 965)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 4th Chapter of 2 Corinthians.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to us.

⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to

despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;

¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of
Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be
manifested in our bodies.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43–51 (Pew Bible, pg. 887)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

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

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

⁴⁸Nathanael said to Him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

⁴⁹Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him,

“Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe?

You will see greater things than these.”

⁵¹And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON—The Rev. Steve Saxe

HYMN OF THE DAY — *By All Your Saints* (LSB 518)



2 All praise him whose candor through
all his doubt You saw when Philip at
the fig tree disclosed You in the law.
Discern, beneath our surface,
O Lord, what we can be,
That by Your truth made guileless,
Your glory we may see.

3 Then let us praise the Father and
worship God the Son and sing to God
the Spirit, Eternal Three in One,
till all the ransomed number fall
down before the throne,
ascribing pow'r and glory and
praise to God alone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text: Public domain
Tune: Public domain

NICENE CREED *(spoken in unison)*

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. 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.**

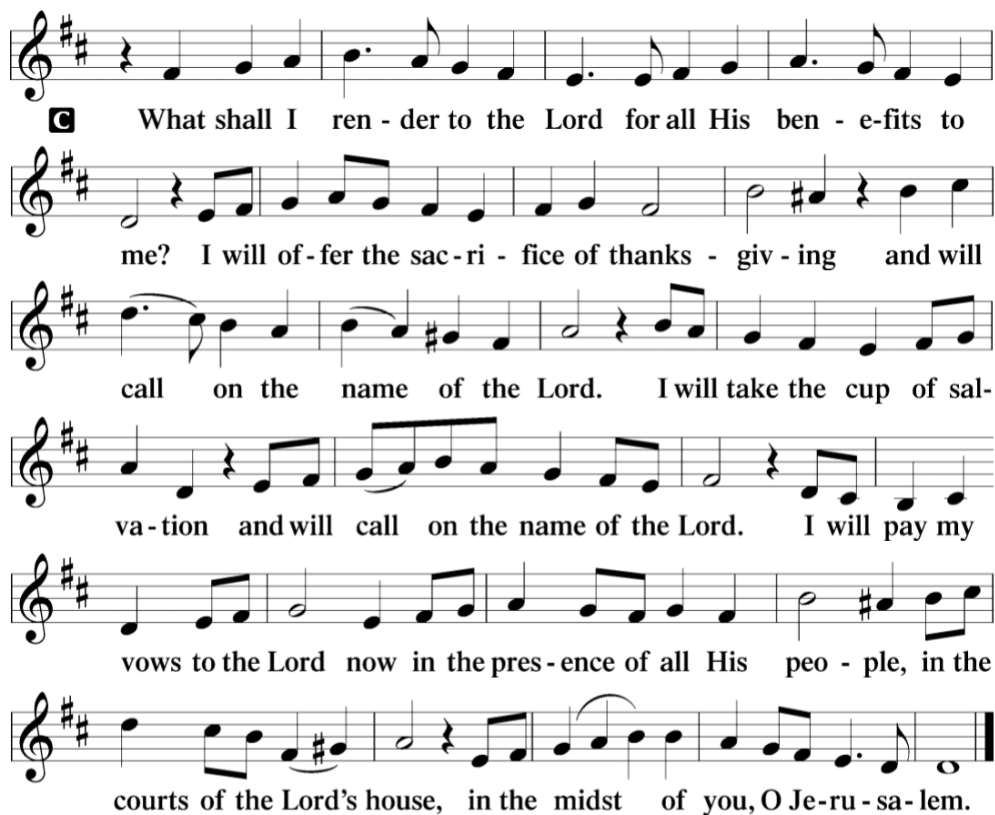
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your
mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

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



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.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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 Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...
...As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

C 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 / 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 — *All to Jesus I Surrender* (TFF 325)



1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;
 2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum-bly at his feet I bow;
 3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;



I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai - ly live.
 world-ly plea-sures all for - sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless-ings fall on me.



Refrain



I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all,
 I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all,



all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.



Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter
 Music: SURRENDER, Winfield S. Weeden.
 Text and tune: Public domain. Reprinted/streamed with permission with OneLicense #A-701734.

THANK THE LORD



C 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.

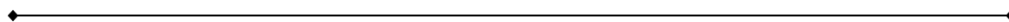
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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 — *Lead On, O King Eternal* (LBW 495)



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest Shurtleff, Tune: LANCASSHIRE, Henry T. Smart
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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

Joyce Rea

Altar Guild

Dede Crosmer,
setup and
clean up

Communion

Assistant

Beverly Hudgins

A/V Operator

John Kolba

Ushers

Walt Crosmer
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Greeter

Joe Wethman

UPCOMING AT GRACE

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



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Livestream



Scan the QR code above or
visit

[www.gracedurham.org/
livestream-channel](http://www.gracedurham.org/livestream-channel)

Call In - Audio Only:

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

Meeting ID: 859 9393 2922

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving



Grace Generous Giving
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provides a simple and secure
method of giving.
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your phone camera and it
will take you to our giving
page to make a donation.