



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 27, 2025

This Sunday

*8:30am Pastor's Class:
Sharing in Faith
(Fellowship Hall)*

*9:30am Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall)*

*10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)*

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



David H. Brooks, Pastor

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

TODAY'S VERSE:

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you."*

-Luke 11:9

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

The Prayer of the Church Is the Voice of Faith

Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would "surely become a great and mighty nation" (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus' name, we also hold "fast to the Head" (Col. 2:19), "rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith" (Col. 2:6-7).

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 — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (LSB 802)



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Tune: Welsh 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, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

Genesis 18:20–33 (Pew Bible, pg. 13)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the Eighteenth Chapter of Genesis.

²⁰Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

²⁵Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death 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?” ²⁶And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

²⁸Suppose 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.”

²⁹Again he spoke to Him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.”

He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”

³¹He said, “Behold, (continues)

I have undertaken to speak to the Lord.
 Suppose twenty are found there.”
 He answered, “For the sake of twenty
 I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said,
 “Oh let not the Lord be angry,
 and I will speak again but this once.

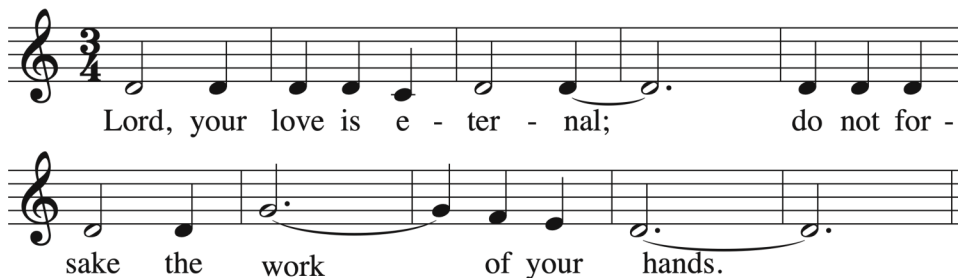
Suppose ten are found there.”
 He answered, “For the sake of ten I will
 not destroy it.” ³³And the Lord went
 His way, when He had finished speaking
 to Abraham, and Abraham returned to
 his place.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 – *Lord, Your Love is Eternal* (Gather Comp. 133)

Congregation sings refrain



1 I give thanks to You, O Lord,
 with all my heart, with all my soul.
 I will sing Your praise with the angels.
 I will worship in Your temple.

Refrain

3 The Lord God is exalted,
 yet He sees you, He sees me.
 And His kindness endures forever,
 O forsake not the work of your hands.

Refrain

2 I give thanks to Your holy name, for all
 Your kindness and Your truth. When I
 called, You answered me, and You
 built up strength within me.

Refrain

The Epistle Lesson is from the Second Chapter of Colossians.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

⁹For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.

¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th Chapter.

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

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” ⁵And He said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give

you anything’? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If 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!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

HYMN OF THE DAY — *Day by Day* (WOV 726)



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



com - fort to my anx-i-ous soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you
 serve and wis-dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
 bur - dens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 guide me o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day.
 hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will



naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
 trust in your en - dur-ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
 hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres-ence here to



trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, Music: Oskar Ahnfelt. Tune: BLOTT EN DAG. Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under One License #A-701734.

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.

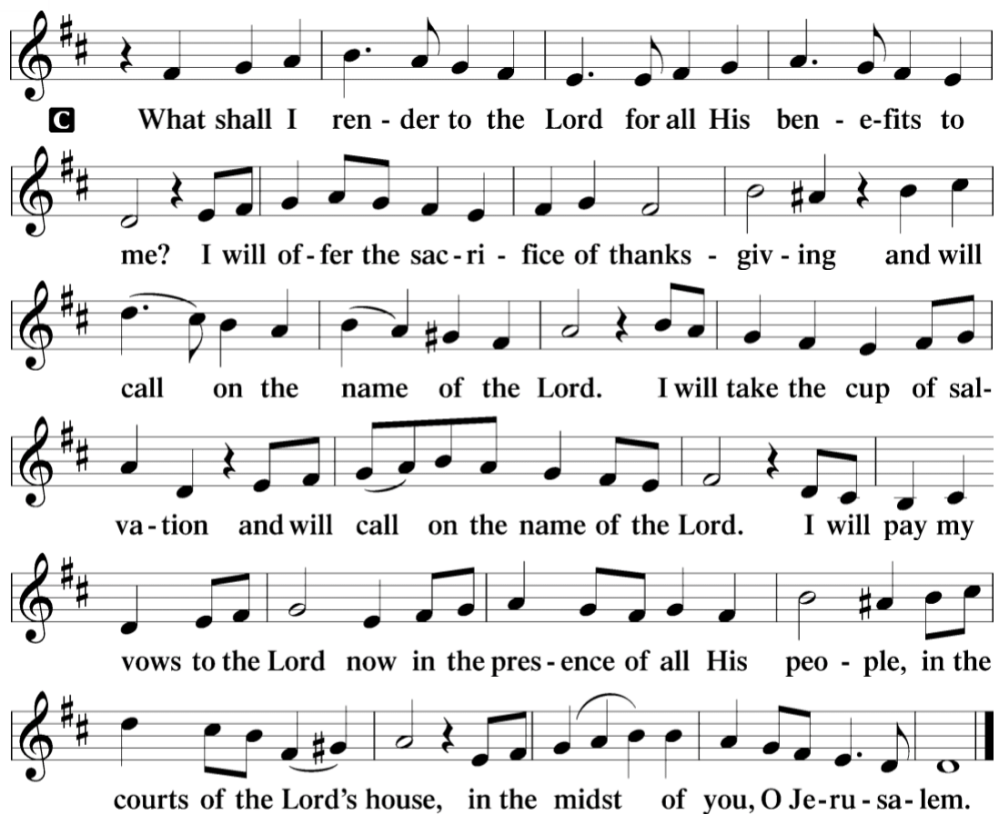
C Amen.

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.

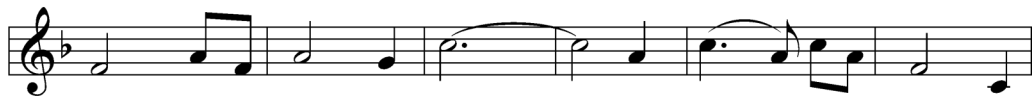
[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]

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 — *Amazing Grace* (LSB 744)



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati/ Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (LSB 649)



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
 And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt./ Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt./ Text and tune: 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 — *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken* (LSB 648)



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will

(continues)



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found-ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea-sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur-round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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

Donna Gesell, setup
Kae Huggins, clean up

Ushers

Drew Young
Tom McGill, Acolyte

Communion Assistant

Beverly Hudgins

A/V Operator

Donna Gesell

Greeter

Kathy Peterson

UPCOMING AT GRACE

Monday, July 28th

Brown Bag Bible Study (11:30am)

Tuesday, July 29th

Growing Thru Grief (4pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

Wednesday, July 30th

LWML Quilting Group (10am)

Thursday, August 7th

Pastor's Sabbatical Begins

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



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919.682.6030

Livestream



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visit

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

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6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 859 9393 2922

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving



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