

Love the Lord Your God above All Other Things

July 9, 2023



Sixth Week after
Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – The Christian loves God above all things. The beautiful Prayer of the Day sets the tone for the Sunday. The Church prays for the love of God that we might always love him above all things. The Verse of the Day describes this total commitment to Christ as denying ourselves and carrying our crosses. The lessons warn of the earthly ramifications of such love, but also point to the promised heavenly rewards.

MORNING PRAYER: O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#422

JESUS, LEAD US ON

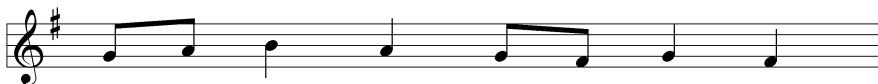
****Please Stand for last verse****



1 Je - sus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
3 When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief,
4 Je - sus, still lead on Till our rest is won.



And al - though the way be cheer - less,
Let not faith - less fears o'er - take us;
When temp - ta - tions come al - lur - ing,
Heav'n - ly Lead - er, still di - rect us;



We will fol - low, calm and fear - less.
Let not faith and hope for - sake us,
Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us



Guide us by your hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM (55 88 55) Adam Drese, 1620–1701.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

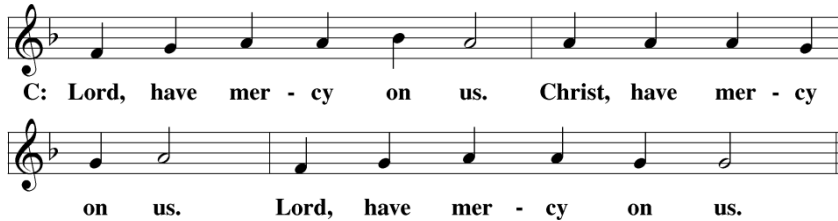
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

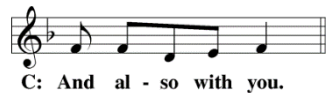
GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis





PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



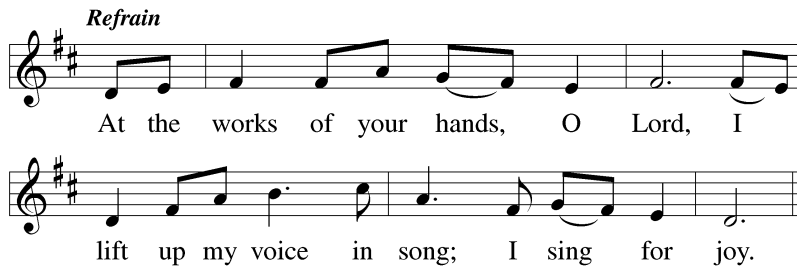
****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 28: 5 – 9

The false prophet Hananiah proclaimed a message that pleased everyone: within two years the captives and sacred articles would return from Babylon. However, Jeremiah knew that Hananiah was dead wrong. False preachers have long promised health and wealth to God's followers. Christianity, however, is not built on a prosperity Gospel, but on the cross for both Christ and Christians. God has called the Christian to love him above all things.

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the House of the Lord. He said, "Amen! May the Lord do that! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied and bring back the vessels of the Lord's house, and may he bring all the exiles back from Babylon to this place. Nevertheless, listen now to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets from ancient times, who came before you and me, prophesied war, famine, and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, only when the word of the prophet actually comes true will that prophet become known as someone whom the Lord has truly sent."



I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;^{*}
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,^{*}
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,^{*}
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?^{*}
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.
Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,^{*}
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.
They rejoice in your name all day long;^{*}
they exult in your righteousness.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son^{*}
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,^{*}
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 6: 1 – 11

In this Sunday's context, this lesson provides an excellent opportunity to preach on the Fourth Part of Baptism from the Small Catechism: The meaning of baptism for our daily life. The Christian is able to love God above all things because he was buried with Christ through baptism into death. The resurrection to faith created a new man freed from sin and free to live wholly and completely for Christ. Our baptism enables us to love God above all, and it empowers us to do so daily.

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b)

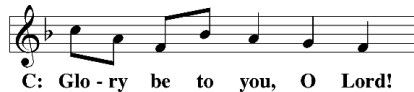


GOSPEL

MATTHEW 10: 34 – 42

Persecution reprioritizes life and sharpens faith. However, the further Christians get from the lions' roar or the martyr's stake, the easier it is for us to make our faith in Christ merely moderately important in our lives. Family, friends, work, health—these all vie for our time and attention, and our faith gets pushed further and further down the list.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

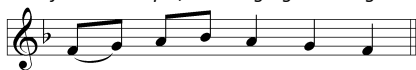


“Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous

man's reward. Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple—Amen I tell you—he will never lose his reward."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#453

COME, FOLLOW ME, THE SAVIOR SPOKE



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spoke, "All in my
2 "I am the light; I light the way, A god - ly
3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
5 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord And take the



way a - bid - ing. De - ny your - selves; the
life dis - play - ing. I bid you walk as
love is glow - ing, And gra - cious words my
souls' sal - va - tion, Your hearts from ev - 'ry
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing



world for - sake; O - bey my call and guid - ing.
in the day; I keep your feet from stray - ing.
lips ex - press, With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing.
guile to free, From sin and its temp - ta - tion.
to his Word, In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed.



Oh, bear the cross, what - e'er be - tide; Take
I am the way, and well I show How
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all To
I am the ref - uge of the soul And
For those who bear the bat - tle's strain The



my ex - am - ple for your guide.
you should jour - ney here be - low.
God I yield; on him I call.
lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77, abr., st. 1-3, 5; *Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge*, 1695, st. 4; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96, alt.

Tune: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT (87 87 88) Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

SERMON TEXT

MATTHEW 10: 34 – 42

SERMON:

PEACE FOR BELIEVERS AND DIVISION FOR EVERYONE ELSE

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a soprano or alto clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*****Please Be Seated*****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH’S MISSION

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, and for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ in our own neighborhoods and the areas in Deschutes County.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits.

Move us to support missionaries at home and overseas with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

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.

*****Please Be Seated*****

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#185

O HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT US GRACE



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our
2 Help us that we your sav - ing Word In faith - ful
3 Then when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter



Lord and Sav - ior In faith and fer - vent love em -
hearts may trea - sure; Let e'er that bread of life af -
hour im - pend - ing, May your good work in us be -



brace And tru - ly serve him ev - er, So that when
ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure. Make us to
gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing, Un - til we



death is near at hand We at his cross may firm -
die to ev - 'ry sin; Each day cre - ate us new
glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our Sav -



Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.

Tune: ES IST GEWISSLICH (87 87 887) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

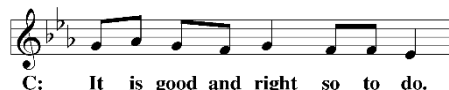
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

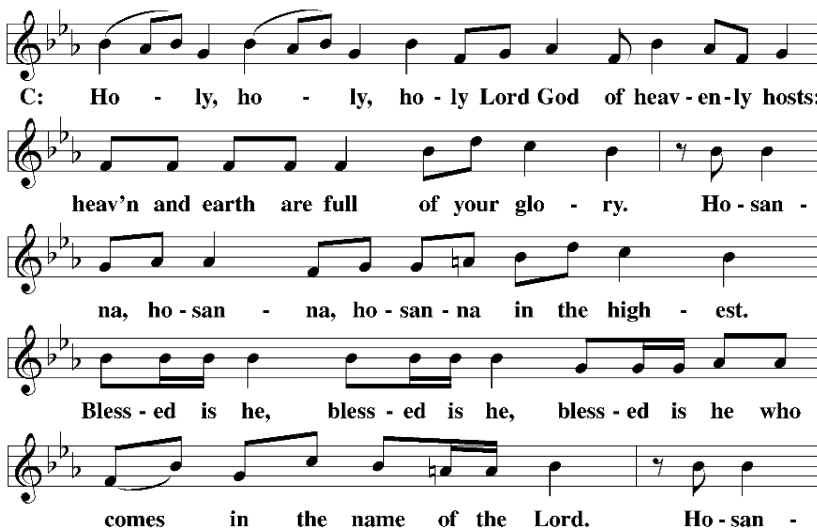


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: A - men, A - men, A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:**#530****HARK! THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS HER HONOR**

1 Hark! The Church pro - claims her hon - or, And her
2 He his Church has firm - ly found - ed; He will
3 Frail and fleet - ing are our pow - ers, Short our
4 Though we here must strive in weak - ness, Though in
5 On - ward, then, with - out de - spair - ing! Calm we

strength is on - ly this: God has laid his choice up -
guard what he be - gan. We, by sin and foes sur -
days, our fore - sight dim. We con - fess a choice not
tears we of - ten bend, What his might be - gan in
fol - low at his Word, Thus through joy and sor - row

on her, And the work she does is his.
round - ed, Build her walls as best we can.
ours: We were cho - sen first by him.
meek - ness Shall a - chieve a glo - rious end.
bear - ing Faith - ful wit - ness to our Lord.

Text: Samuel Preiswerk, 1799–1871; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: STUTTGART (87 87) Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716, alt.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Strategic Plan – We are getting closer to conducting our strategic future planning. Brad Kerkow will meet with the council this Friday at the pastor’s home; this meeting is open to all members and potential members. We will be grilling along with the meeting, so RSVP so I know how much to make.

Potluck – We get to dine together and break bread with one another. Next Sunday, July 16, will be our potluck following church in dining hall. All are welcome, even if you do not have a dish to pass. Penny will have the sign-up for the dish in the coffee room following today’s service.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Sunday School is back; please join us; come and go as you like. We continue our study of the “Acts of the Apostles” as we consider the early Christian Church after Jesus ascended into heaven and compare that to today’s Christian Church. However, we always have time for other questions if you have a question about something else.

Midweek Bible Study – We are resuming Bible Study Tuesday, July 11, at 6 pm as we return to the Port’s home, continuing our study of Romans. Please join us at 1923 NW Nickernut Court, Redmond, OR, or on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Grants Pass/Medford – Please keep these saints in your prayers as they have called to Rev. Micah Ernst was called this week, and we pray that the Holy Spirit would guide him to accept this call.

Outreach – It is summertime and time to meet our neighbors. Pastor Emmons will be walking the neighborhoods to share the hope we have in Christ. Please consider walking with the pastor and Gene Baldwin on Fridays at 10 am. We meet at the church for a short devotion and then go to a neighborhood. We will canvas until noon, or you can end earlier.

Pastor: Roger Emmons
Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com
Web Site: <https://graceredmond.com>
Church Phone: 541-844-7100
Cell Phone: 541-699-7643

Address: 945 SW Glacier Ave
Redmond, OR 97756
Mailing Address: P.O Box 2396
Redmond, OR 97756