Your Citizenship: It's in Heaven

October 25, 2026

GRACE Lutheran Church

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome, guests! We're delighted you could join us. If you have questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to help. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold text. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; only the pastor and elders will use it. Restrooms are to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: These readings cohere around God's absolute sovereignty over all earthly powers and the proper response of giving God what belongs to God—especially to us—while fulfilling our limited duties to civilian authorities. Luther taught that God preserved the world through the left-hand kingdom and redeemed it through the right-hand kingdom.

MORNING PRAYER: O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us, that with You as our ruler and guide, we may pass through temporal things do not lose the eternal things; 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: **#434**

LORD, YOU I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART *****Please Stand for the Last Verse*****



Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERZLICH LIEB HAB ICH DICH, O HERR (887 887 88 88 488) *Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur*, Strassburg, 1577, alt.



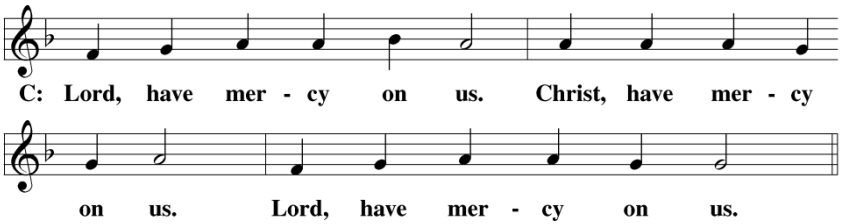
In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

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, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us, that with You as our ruler and guide, we may pass through temporal things that we do not lose the eternal things; 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

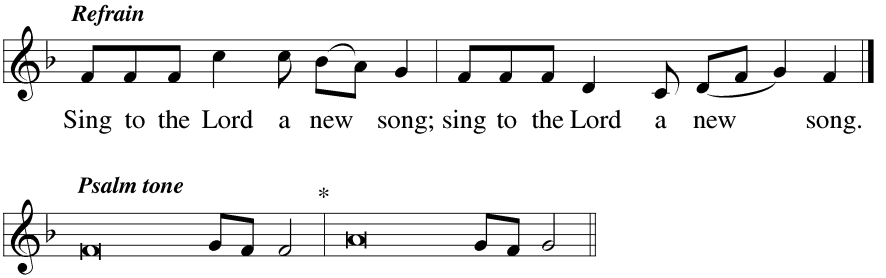
FIRST LESSON: **ISAIAH 45:1 – 17**

God calls the pagan king Cyrus "my anointed," the Hebrew—my Mashiach. God used Cyrus, His instrument, to free the exiled Jews in Babylon, even though Cyrus did not know the Lord. This was spoken hundreds of years before the Jewish Babylonian captivity, demonstrating God's sovereignty.

This is what the Lord says to his anointed one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him by stripping kings of their weapons, to open doors before him so that the gates cannot be shut. I myself will go before you, and I will level high mountains. I will

break bronze doors into pieces, and I will cut through iron bars. I will give you treasures hidden in darkness and riches concealed in secret places, so that you will acknowledge that I am the Lord, the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel. For the sake of my servant Jacob, for the sake of Israel my chosen one, I will call you by your name. I will give you an honored name, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. Except for me, there is no god. I will equip you even though you do not know me, so that people will know from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets that there is no one except me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I am the one who forms light and creates darkness, the one who makes peace and creates disaster. I am the Lord, the one who does all these things.

PSALM OF THE DAY: **PSALM 96**



Refrain

Sing to the LORD, praise his name;*
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,*
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;*
tremble before him, all the earth.

Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;*
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.*
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;
for he comes to judge the world in righteousness*
and the peoples in his truth.

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 **1 THESSALONIANS 1:1 – 5A**

So often, God's work of faith, labor of love, and endurance of hope goes unnoticed. But through God's evangelists, the gospel did not come to them in mere words but through the power of the Holy Spirit; the Thessalonians were called by God, and their lives were changed by faith.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always give thanks to God for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers, because we constantly remember before God our Father your work produced by faith, your labor produced by love, and your patient endurance produced by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers, loved by God, we know that God has chosen you, because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)



Please Stand*

GOSPEL **MATTHEW 22:15 – 21**

While the religious leaders sought to trap Jesus and find a way to kill Him, His response makes clear that our civic duties and responsibilities belong to this world and its leaders—but we bear God's image as His adopted children. Above all, we owe our allegiance to God, who has redeemed us.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances. So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing me, hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." They brought him a denarius. He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

"Caesar's," they replied to him. Then he said to them, "Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

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

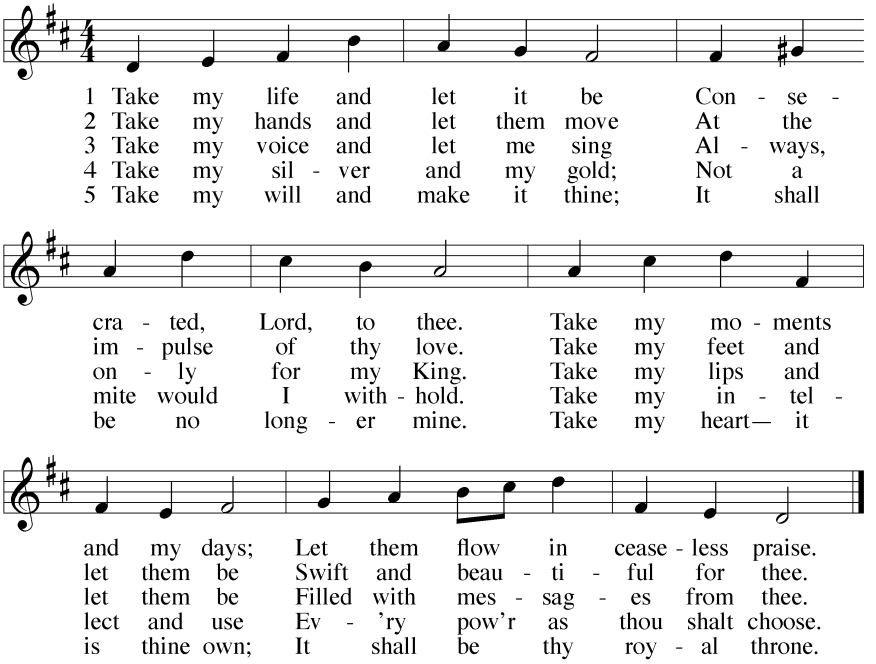
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate 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: **#469**

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE



6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79.
Tune: PATMOS (77 77) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870.

SERMON TEXT: **MATTHEW 22:15 – 22**

SERMON THEME: **LIVING UNDER TWO KINGDOMS**

CREATE IN ME



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.

Sunday school teachers and assistants come forward: Lani Carroll, Tammi Emmons, Sue Hamilton, Debra Shaw, Nancy TenBroek, and Mavis Vandelicht

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS

Dear friends in Christ, you have been called to serve as teachers in this congregation's Sunday school. You are doing the work the Lord has committed to His church: teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, making disciples of all nations, and feeding the lambs of the Lord Jesus. You do this work on behalf of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and in partnership with the parents who entrust their children to your instruction and care.

Your work is both a great privilege and a serious responsibility. To prepare for this blessed work, you must faithfully study God's word, devote yourselves to prayer for those entrusted to your care, and carefully prepare the lessons you will teach. In teaching the Savior's little ones, it is also important to set an example by leading Christian lives.

I now ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you willing to accept this responsibility and to do your work faithfully, according to the ability God has given to you? If so, answer: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

T: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

I now install you as teachers in the Sunday School of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son (✝) and of the Holy Spirit.

May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you the wisdom and strength to carry out your duties for his glory and for the good of his children.

Members of Grace, I urge you to regard these teachers as servants of Jesus Christ, as teachers of the gospel, and as God's gifts to his church. Support them in their work, pray for them, and bring your children to Sunday school so that you and your families may receive the eternal blessings the Lord promises to those who hear and learn his word.

Let us pray.

Gracious Savior, you bless every effort to raise children in the Christian faith. We ask you to grant teachers who feed your lambs wisdom, kindness, and perseverance. Teach them your truth so they may teach others. Cause the children entrusted to their care to be eager to learn about their Savior. May your goodness go out into all the earth so that people in this community and everywhere may hear and believe it, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Go in the peace of the Lord.

May the Almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR CONGREGATION

Let us pray to the God of all knowledge and wisdom that the church may be renewed and strengthened in her mission.

Silent prayer.

Heavenly Father, You have gathered people of all ages into the communion of saints. Today we thank You especially for the gift of young people to Your Church. We come before You and ask that You keep them in Your care.

Protect them from the dangers and temptations young people commonly encounter. Help them resist pressure to engage in godless and immoral activities. When they are confused, guide them. When they are hurt, bind up their wounds. When they fail, restore them in Your mercy, and keep the cross of Christ before their eyes.

Bless them with good friends, competent teachers, faithful ministers, caring parents, supportive homes, and life-enriching experiences. According to Your wisdom, spare them from the perils of unexpected tragedy, severe illness, violent crime, a broken home, or an untimely death.

Be with our children as they continue to mature. Teach them the value of honest labor and faithful stewardship. Guide and direct them as they prepare for their life's vocation. Remind them that their highest joy is found in using their talents and abilities in service to you.

Bless this Your congregation with new young families who desire to teach their children about Your love and mercy. Grant that the Holy Spirit would call, gather, sanctify, and enlighten the next generation to know and trust Your Son, our Savior, and to bring more souls into Your holy kingdom.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions and pray for a family who does not know You.

Silent prayer.

Most of all, dear Lord, we ask You to keep this faithful to Your truth in every generation. Strengthen believers through the regular use of Word and sacrament. Open our mouths to share the gospel with friends and acquaintances, so each new generation may know the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.

Amen.

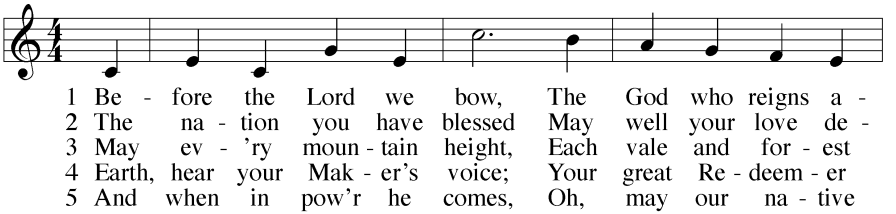
THE LORD'S PRAYER

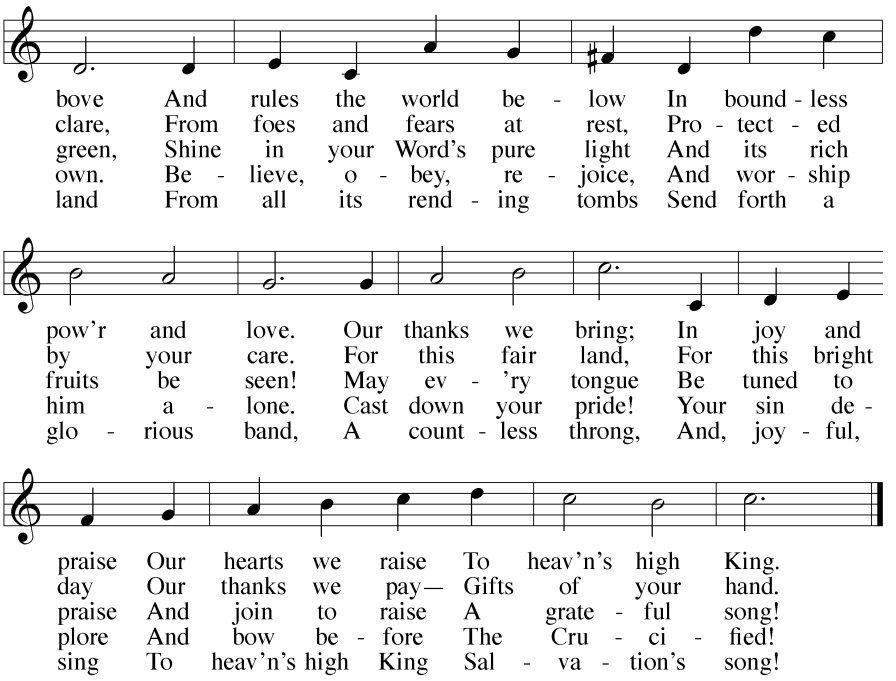
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #618

BEFORE YOU, GOD THE JUDGE OF ALL





Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH (66 66 4444) John Darwall, 1731–89.

Please Stand

THE SACRAMENT



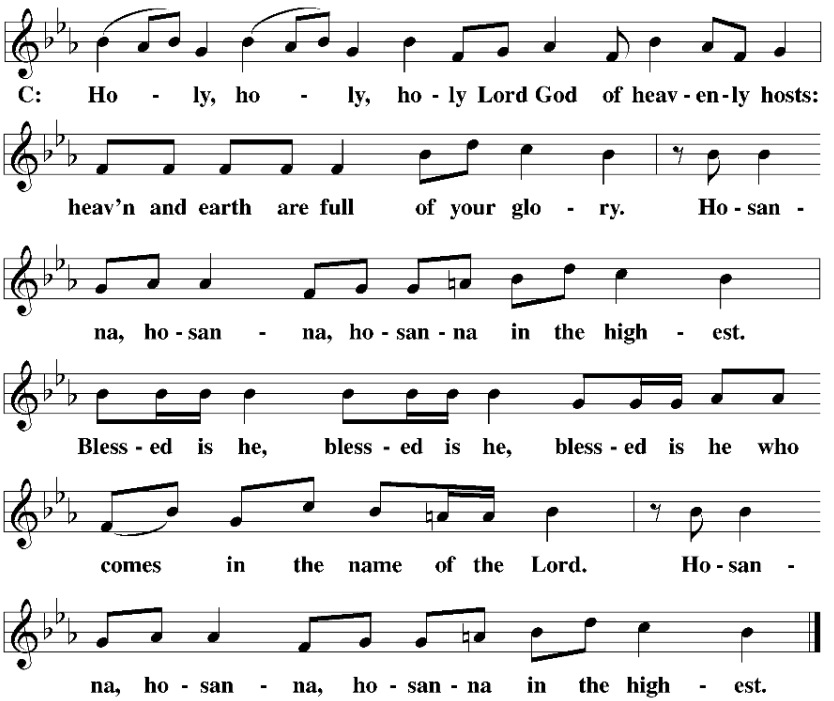
The Lord be with you.

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 hosts 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."

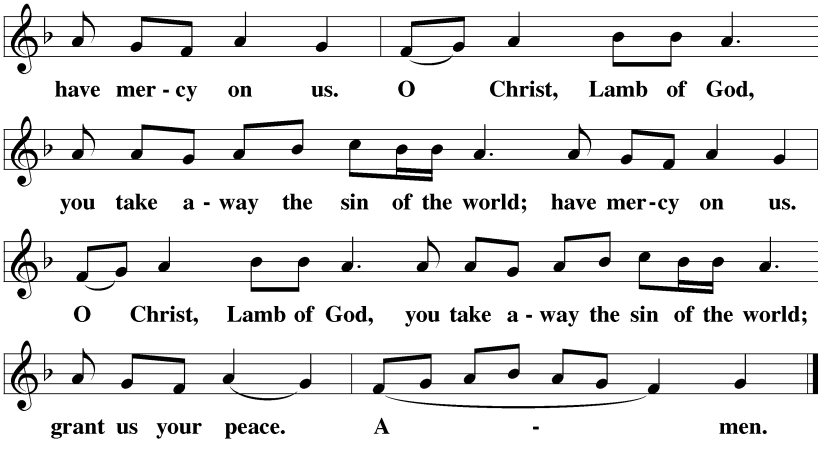


The peace of the Lord be with you always.

CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI





Please Be Seated*

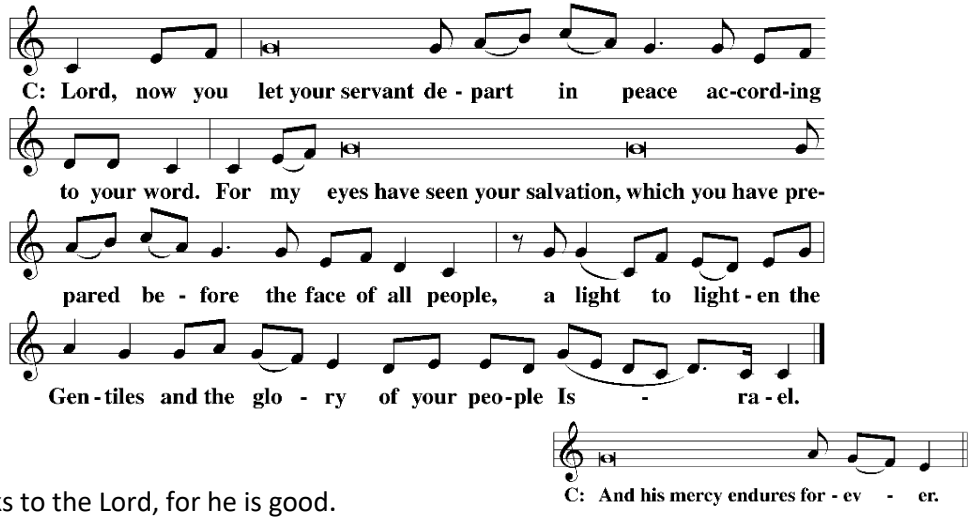
DISTRIBUTION

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

NUNC DIMITTIS



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

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness, you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

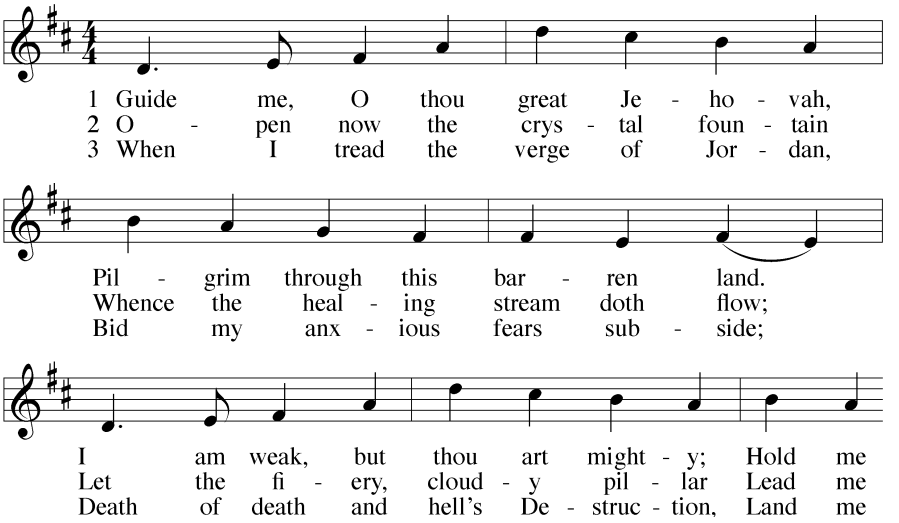
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

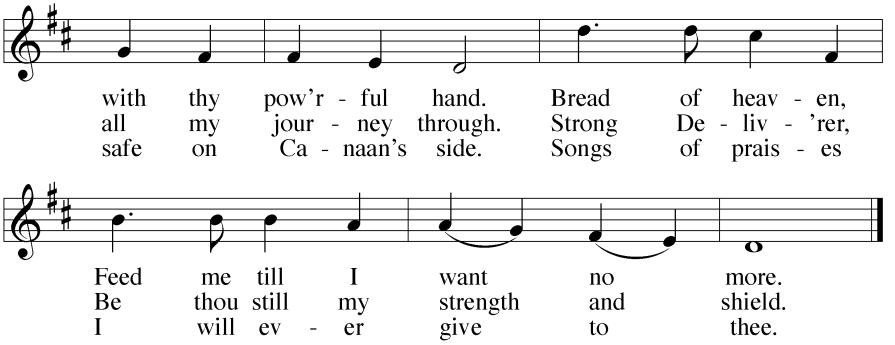


Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: #331

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH





Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, st. 1; William Williams, st. 2-3.
Tune: GUIDE ME (87 87 47) George W. Warren, 1828–1902.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the sole source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, 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, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins forgiven for all people, and credit is given for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive its benefits.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, when all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reformation Service: Faith Lutheran Church in Medford will host a joint Reformation service on October 31 at 12 p.m., with an Oktoberfest meal to follow.

Bible Information Class: Our Thursday class resumes on October 22. We still have room, and we meet at 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul's letter to the church at Colossae. After our study of Colossians, we will read and discuss "Connected to Christ," a book that will help us with our outreach.

Midweek Bible Study: We will resume our Tuesday evening Bible Study on October 20, 6 p.m. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll's home (3211 SW Umatilla Rd.) to study Isaiah, or you can join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057 Password: GraceOT

Thanksgiving Service: We will hold our Thanksgiving potluck and service on November 22; there will be no service on November 25. For the Thanksgiving potluck, we will take an offering for the seminarians' Christmas gift. If you would like to give early, you can place it in the collection plate designated for that gift.

Advent Services: We will hold our Advent services on Wednesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. We will have cookies and warm drinks following the services. Christmas Eve will also be at 3:30, and Christmas morning will be at 10:30 a.m. This year's Advent theme, reflecting our focus on going out into the community, is: "Your King comes; Go out to meet Him."

Christmas Eve: How about a cookie exchange? As you plan to bring your cookies for Christmas Eve, please bring extras to share. You get to go home with a variety of cookies. If you are not planning to attend but would still like to share cookies, please talk to Penny Port.

Pastor: Roger Emmons
Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com
Website: https://graceredmond.com
Church Phone: 541-844-7100
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