

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 3, 2023

10:00am

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth

#879

Apostolic Greeting

Hymn of Praise Glory to You, God

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth; yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth. Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame; ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name. Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done; yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.'

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 12:9–21

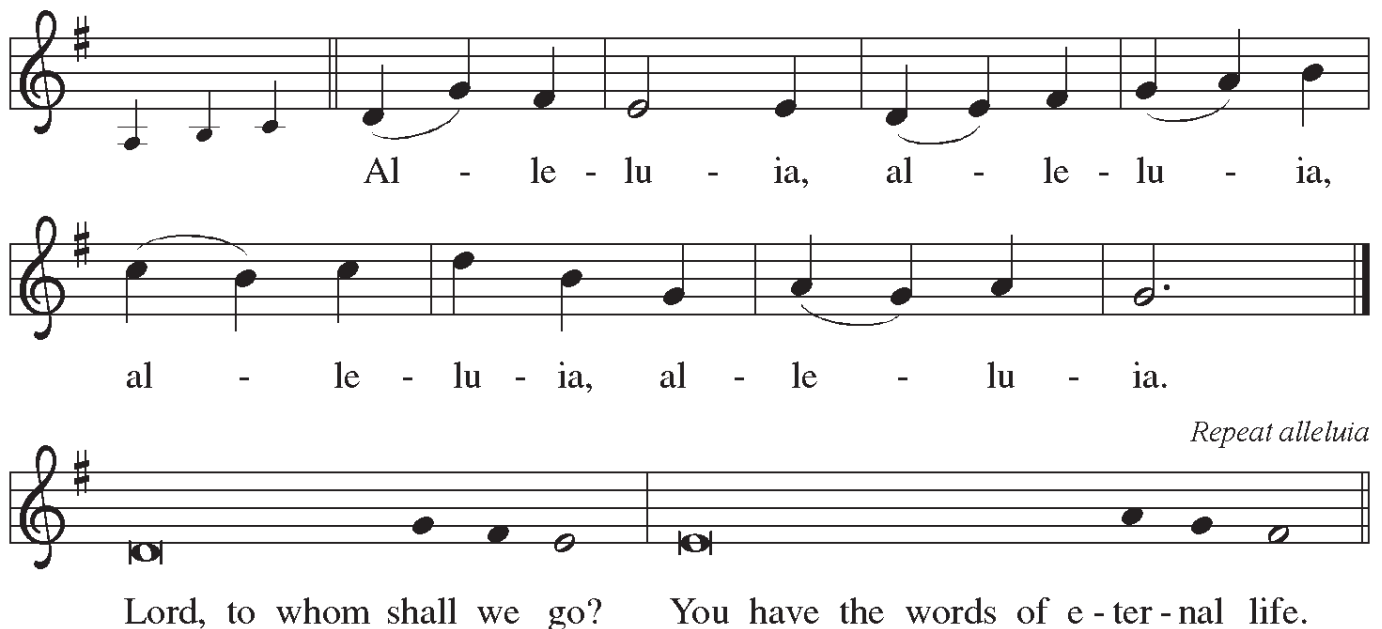
⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Will You Come and Follow Me (verses 1, 2, & 5)

#798

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

Prayers of the Church

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

... Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Life up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

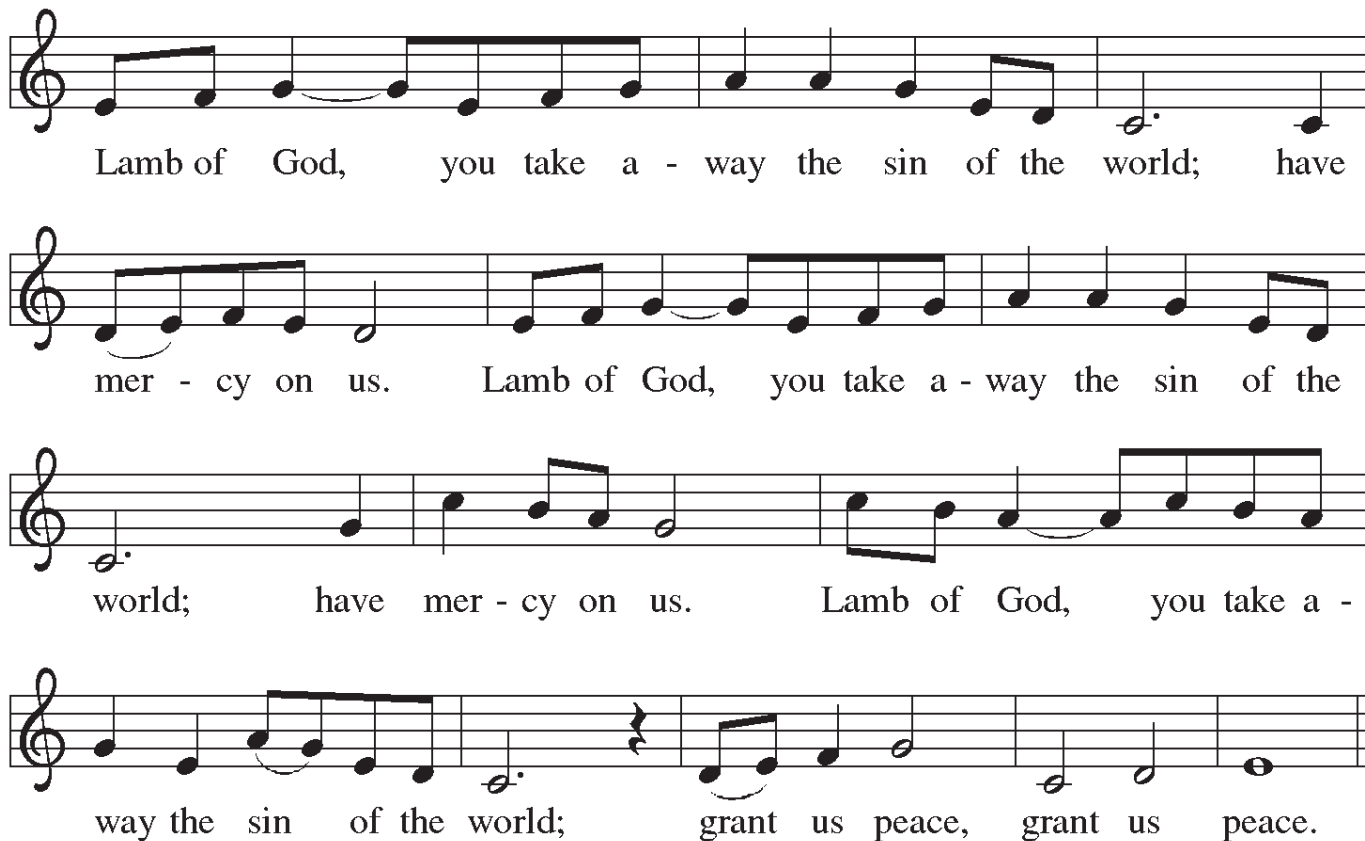
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Communion



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, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn

Let Streams of Living Justice

#710

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Let Streams of Living Justice: Text © 1989 William Whitla

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge—Jones

Reader: Wilma Hovland

Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken

Organist: Joan Neumann

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (3rd)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

MONDAY

(Labor Day)

Office closed

TUESDAY

Life & Growth
Meeting – 10pm
Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am
Text Study – 12pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SUNDAY (10th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Northwest Synod, Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, Randall Park Neighborhood Association



2023-9-3

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Labor Day

In honor of Labor Day, the church will be closed on September 4.

Rally Day – Let's Launch!

We are looking forward to gathering again for our Fall Rally Day on September 17, 2023! We will worship together in the Church Parlors and enjoy a potluck lunch together immediately after the service. Please bring any dish or side to share, ready to serve; desserts and beverages will be provided. Our Scout partners from Troop 36 and Pack 238 will plan to bring their pneumatic paper rocket launcher again if the weather permits! We are hopeful that the church's new directory will be handed out to members on this day. Join us as we welcome a new season of togetherness in God.



Maui Fire Relief

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

You can use the following link to the ECLA's website to donate or funds can also be channeled through an offering in the

plate.

<https://community.elca.org/uswildfires?erid=6c7c32c7-7ddc-4d69-9152-ad894cc3e8e8&trid=6c7c32c7-7ddc-4d69-9152-ad894cc3e8e8>

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Monday September 11th at 10am in the Lounge. We will use the September Gather magazine for our Bible study.

All women are invited. If you want to join us or have questions, contact Barb Piper (bpiper2007@yahoo.com or phone/text 715-529-6900)

Helping Hands at Beacon House

Thanks to all of the grace members who provided food for the meals on August 10, 11, and 12. We served a variety of food that appeals to adults and children alike - Brats, pizza casseroles, chicken nuggets, lots of side dishes, popsicles, rice crispie bars, homemade cookies and lots of fruit. A listing of the contributing members is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Check it out and say THANKS to these Helping Hands.



Noisy Offering

A Season for Change

Save your coins and let them FALL in the Noisy Offering on September 17. The children of Grace will gather loose change from our pockets and purses during our worship service. (Even though it doesn't make as much noise when dropped into the collection cans, paper money is also greatly appreciated!)

Our special offering will be for Eau Claire Public School's Homeless Children and Youth Fund. Each year, the Eau Claire Area School

District serves hundreds of children and youth living in a homeless situation. This program supports various student and family needs, from transportation to winter gear to school supplies.

Your generosity will help ensure that students' basic needs are met so they can focus on their educations.

Make some noise and help our children in need!

Choir Opportunities

This year I would like to start a new form of outreach where we strive to bring some kind of music or artistic stimulation for residents at our Grace Lutheran Foundation Facilities. I spoke with Linda Holzhausen, the Activities Director, and she recommended the following time frames:

- Monday or Friday around 3:15pm
- Tuesday around 5:30–6:30pm

My objective is to come up with a biweekly schedule with groups of two or three (or more) individuals coming together to bring arts to these communities. Participants can be part of one of our choirs or other individuals who have skills to share like improv, crafting, solo or duo music performances, magic acts, or small ensembles. The important element is to help these residents tap into lifetime memories engaging in artistic stimulation (singing along with songs of their youth, doing familiar sensory tasks like decorating or cutting out cookies, painting, chair dancing, etc.) that encourage them to tell stories and use more of their senses.

Nothing has to be "high art". We can definitely plan a caroling outing as well!

Please give me some feedback if you know of someone who has talents to share. I will create a calendar so people can sign up for the day that works best for them. Linda asked me to send her a monthly update each month four days before the end of the month so she can publish our visits in their monthly calendars to generate a crowd.

Family Choir is also starting up again. Rehearsals will follow Sunday church service on the following dates: Sept 14; Oct 1, 15, 29; Nov 12, 19; Dec 3, 17.

Diana Cataldi, choir director

RUMMAGE

SALE



ELCA VECINO A VECINO
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR
MINISTRY



"God's work. Our hands."



SEPTEMBER

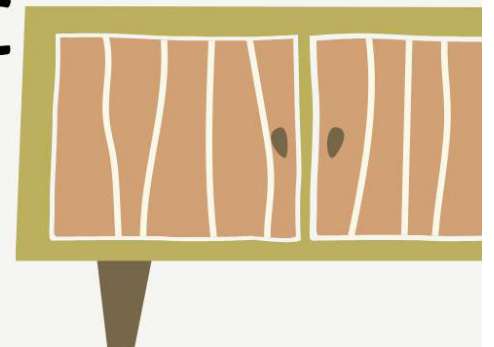
15 10-3 PM

16 10 - 1 PM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1804 HIGHLAND AVE EAU CLAIRE

**TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
HISPANIC STUDENTS AT
UWEC AND CVTC**



Crafters' Corner

The Crafters are gearing up for our Fall/Winter sale. This year profits will be used for Grace Communities patio upkeep and if it comes to be – the Veterans Project.

Our Needs Right Now!

- Cookie Cutters – Metal with open center
- Elves – Small knee huggers
- Small Gnomes (1" or 2")

Needs Before November 4th Sale

- Lefsa Makers & Bakers – time to fill your/our freezers
- Sewers, Knitters, & Crocheters – We can use soup cozies, pot holders, aprons, hats, scarves, mittens, and anything else you can think of.

Save the Date

The Unique Boutique will be on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

More information will come in the following weeks.

Pastor Phil in Guatemala

Pastor Phil discusses with the translators how to communicate that Jesus makes all things new.



Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to "Our Ministry."

Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the "Our Ministry."

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)
- Radio Service Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713