

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 17, 2023

10:00am

GATHERING

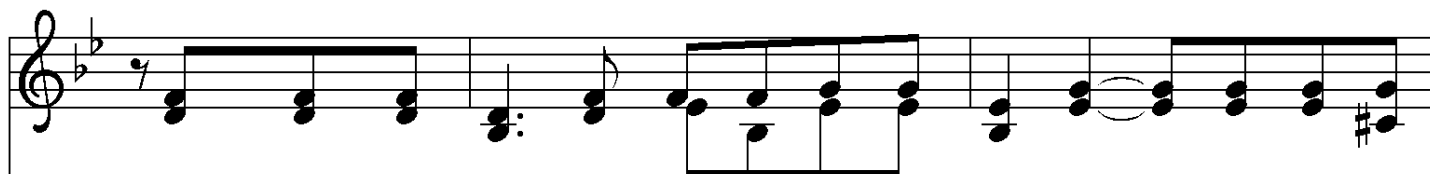
Prelude

Shout to the Lord
Pacibells

by Darlene Zschech; arr. Bill Ingram

Opening Hymns

How Great Thou Art



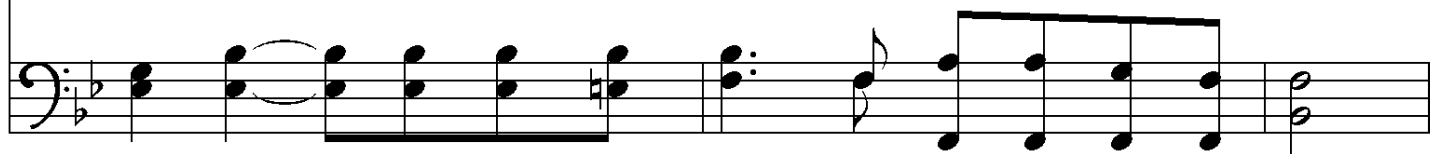
1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

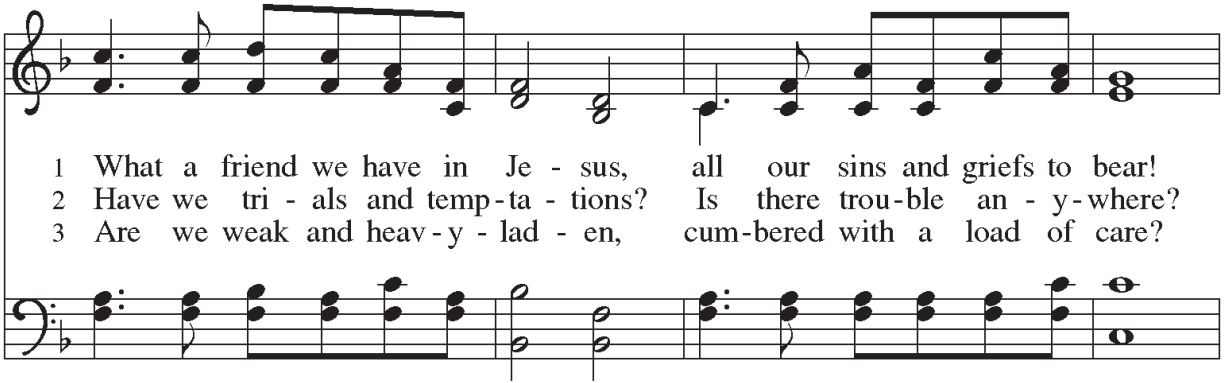
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).

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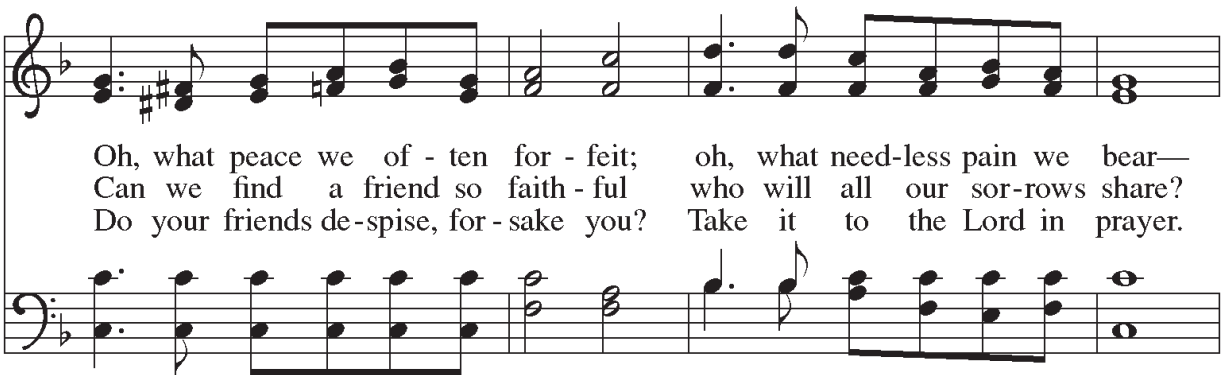
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

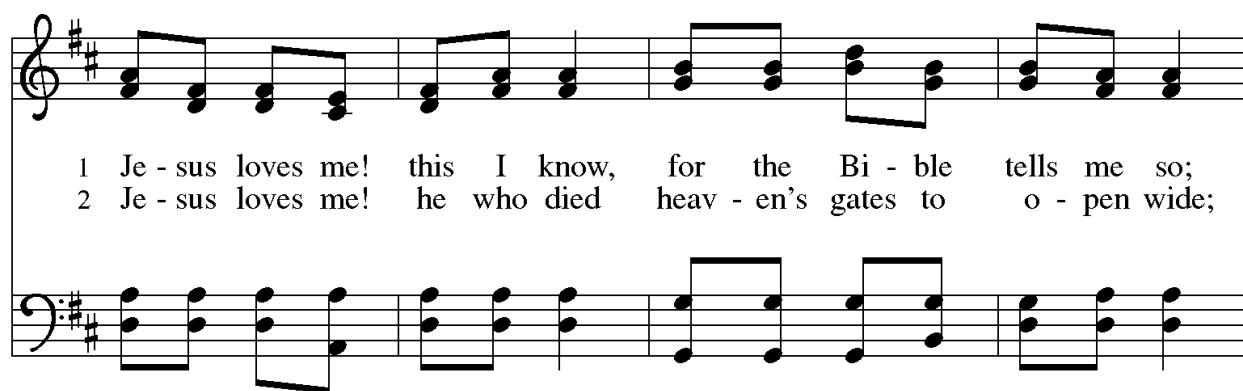


Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Apostolic Greeting

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

Noisy Offering

Reading: Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Kyrie

John Leavitt

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave

him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music with lyrics underneath.

System 1:

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

System 2:

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

System 3 (Refrain):

watch - ing for you and for me. "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the lyrics: "You who are wea-ry, come home." and "Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,". The second system contains the lyrics: "Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, 'O sin - ner, come home!'". The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with many chords and some melodic lines.

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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 (*Sing hymn between sections of prayers*)

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

A brief silence.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with a supporting bass line in the Bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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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

O Sing to the Lord ("Cantad al Señor")
Pacibells

arr. Jason W Krug

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.

Communion

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.**

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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones **Pacibells Director:** Karen
Assisting Minister: Molly Wilson Lionberger
Reader: Barb Piper **Guitar:** Randy Adams
Pianist: Elaine Mann **Percussion:** Andrew Reid
Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (17th)
(Rally Day)
 Coffee Hour – 9:30am
 Worship – 10am

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

SUNDAY (24th)
 Coffee Hour – 9:30am
 Worship – 10am

TUESDAY
 Stepping On Class – 10pm
 Prayer Group – 11am
 Church Council – 7pm

THURSDAY
 Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT

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.

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 24; Oct 1, 15, 29; Nov 12, 19; Dec 3, 17.

Diana Cataldi, choir director

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.

Fall Art Celebration

Artist needed for The Fall Art Celebration Sunday, October 29th from 1 – 4pm

Once again Eau Claire ELCA church choirs, musicians and artists will be celebrating together at Trinity Lutheran. The committee would like to invite visual artists to participate and share their creative gifts with our community.

The following are the areas of visual art we are looking for:

- Paintings (water color, acrylic, oil, pastels)
- Woodcarvings
- Pottery or sculpture
- Rosemaling or folk painting
- Photography
- Jewelry
- Batik/Fiber/Fabric
- Stained Glass

Note: Due to the limited space for display, we cannot accommodate quilt art that is bigger than 3x5. If you are interested please contact Elaine Mann at 715-450-2380 or email egfmann@gmail.com.

Sunday School

Sunday School is starting up again this Fall. Classes will be held during the worship service following the children's message on the following dates:

- October 1 & 15
- November 5 & 19
- December 3 & 17

Grace Members Performing in the Community

Two of our members are playing key roles in upcoming theatre productions. Molly Wilson will play the lead in Bright Star, an upbeat blue grass musical, and Arthur Grothe will be directing Godspell, a musical based on the Gospel of Matthew. Show up and support these members of Grace at the Pablo.



Broadway Musical



7:30, Sept. 28-30
1:30pm, Oct. 1
Jamf Theatre, Pablo
Tickets: cvtg.org

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