

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*September 24, 2023*

*10:00am*

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

Praeludium in g minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess**

**that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** Take My Life, That I May Be

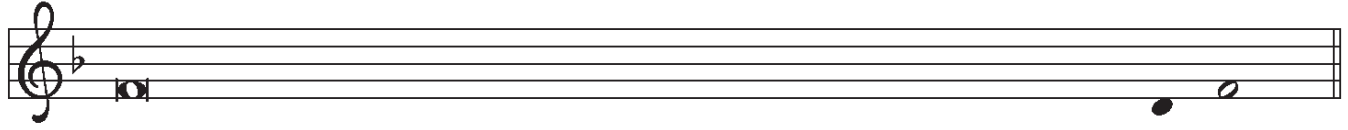
#583

# Apostolic Greeting

## Kyrie



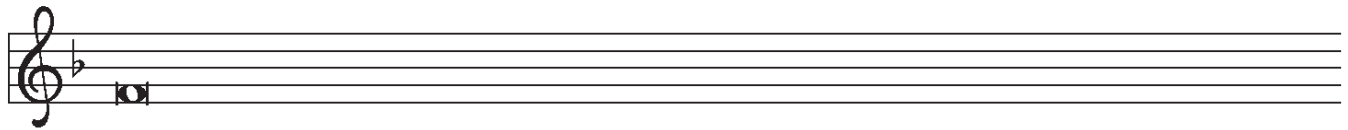
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



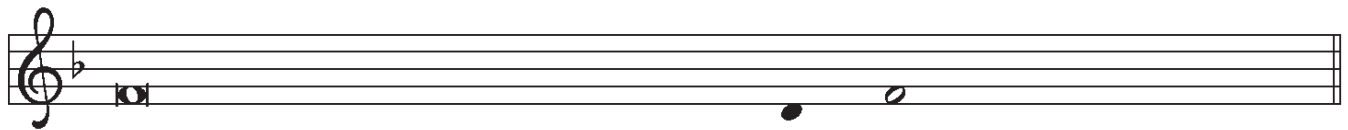
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



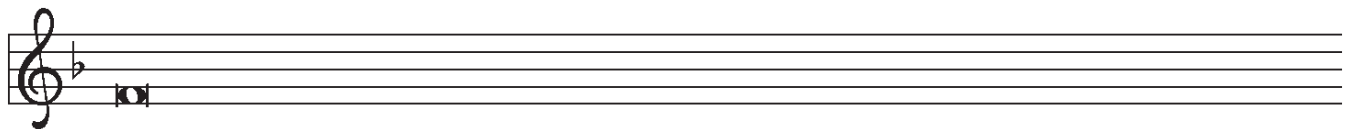
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



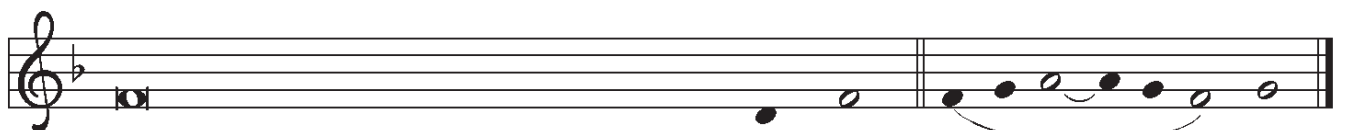
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## WORD

### Children's Message

#### First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: Philippians 1:21–30

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

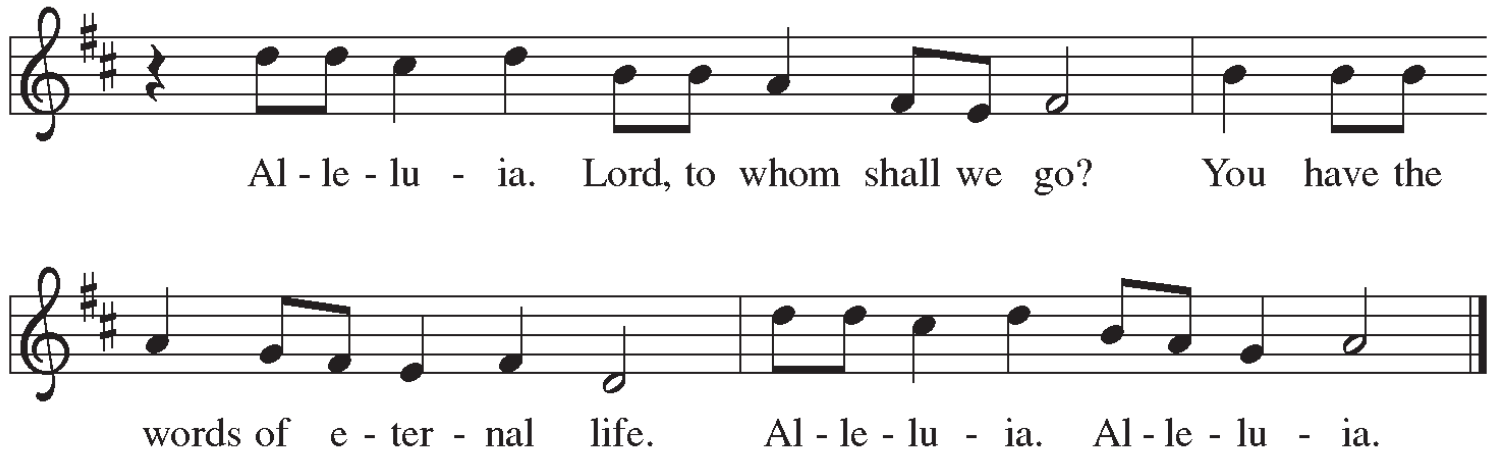
Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**                      Kumbaya  
Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya  
Oh Lord, Kumbaya  
Someone's prayin', Lord, Kumbaya  
Someone's cryin', Lord, Kumbaya  
Someone's singin', Lord, Kumbaya  
Sing alleluia! Lord! Sing alleluia!  
Oh Lord, Kumbaya

arr. Paul Sjolund

### Gospel Acclamation



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.

### Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16 Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go

into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**                      Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn**                         Lord of All Hopefulness

#765

### **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.**

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## MEAL

**Offering**

Salvation Has Come to Earth

Max Drischner

**Offertory**

## We Come Now to Your Table, Lord



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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## 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 al - so with you.



Lift 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'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.

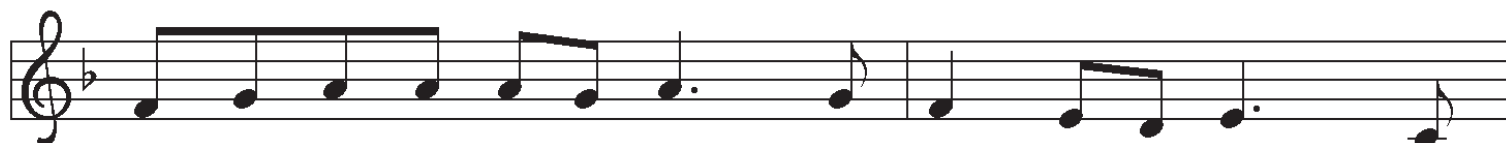


## Eucharistic Prayer

### 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.

## 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.**

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## 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

Voices Raised to You (verses 2,3, & 4)

#845

### Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Elacombe

Albert Travis

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**Minister:** Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Assisting Minister:** Pete Lokken

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

**Readers:** Quinn and Annie Rom

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge–Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto: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>

## Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY (24<sup>th</sup>)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am

### TUESDAY

Stepping On Class – 10pm  
Prayer Group – 11am  
Jonah Action Night – 5pm

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

### SUNDAY (1<sup>st</sup>)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am

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



2023-9-24

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## Andrew on Vacation

Andrew will be on vacation the week of September 25 through 28. The office and church will still be open for their usual hours: Monday through Thursday from 10am until 2pm. There will be a volunteer in the office during that time to help anyone who comes to the church and to answer the phone.

## Save the Date

Stewardship Sunday is almost here. Mark your calendars for October 15th. There will be a special meal following the service. Keep an eye out for more information in the following weeks.

## Rally Day — Thank You!

The Educational, Youth and Family Ministry would like to thank everyone for participating in Rally Day, and for bringing in the delicious food.

In addition, we would like to thank the Life and Growth, Building and Property, Visual Arts, and Stewardship Ministries for their help. Also, thank you to Pastor Phil, Matt Wing, Elaine Berg, Anita Reid, the Boy Scouts, the musicians and everyone who made Rally Day a success!

Sincerely,

Education, Youth and Family Ministry

## 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

## Noisy Offering

A Season for Change

This past Sunday our Grace community donated \$453.28 in the Noisy Offering. The money will go to the 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.

Thank you for your generosity and support for our local youth.

## Family Choir Schedule

The Family Choir will meet to rehearse after the worship service on the following dates:

- September 24
- October 1
- October 15
- October 29
- November 12
- November 19
- December 3
- December 17

The first rehearsal is this Sunday. See you there.

## 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](mailto:egfmann@gmail.com).

## 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

### Save the Date!

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

Needs Before November 4th Sale

- Lefsa Makers & Bakers — time to fill your/our freezers
- Knitters & Crocheters — We can use soup cozies, pot holders, aprons, hats, scarves, mittens, and anything else you can think of.
- Helpers to set-up and help with the sale.

*More information will come in the following weeks.*