

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



November 19, 2023

10:00am

GATHERING

Prelude

Our Faith, Our Church
Pacibells

Douglas E. Wagner

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.

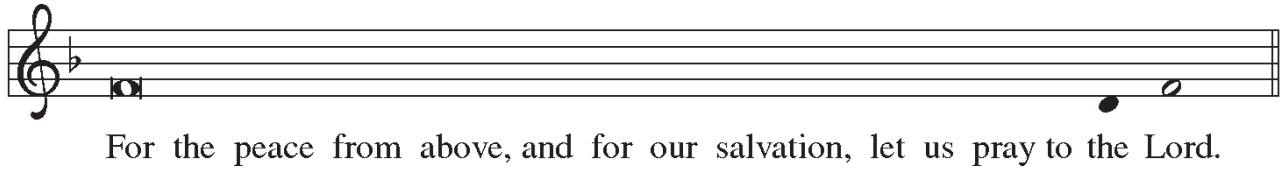
Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

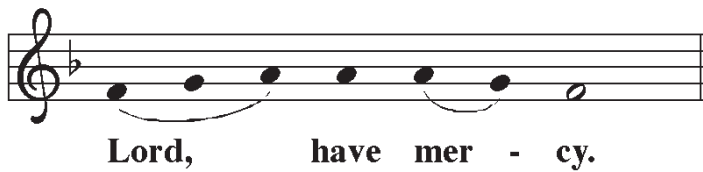
Kyrie



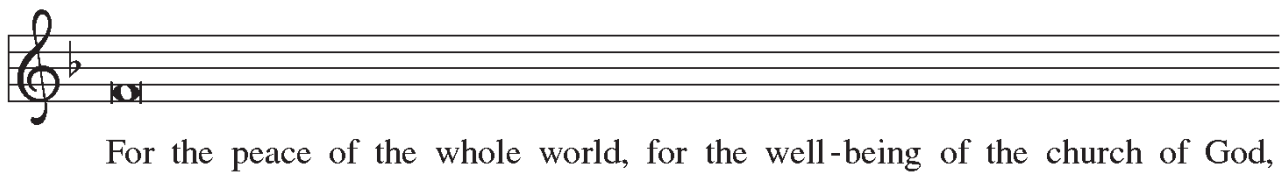
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



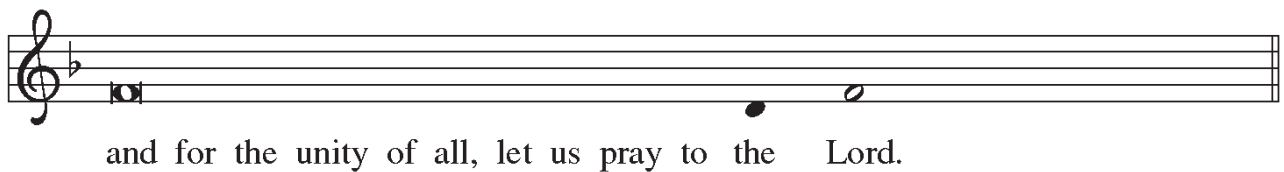
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



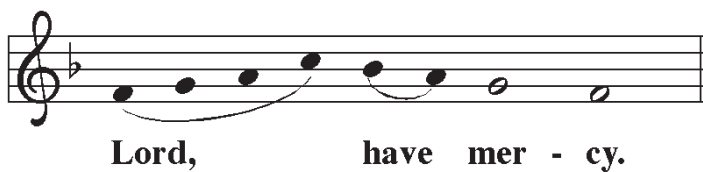
Lord, have mer - cy.



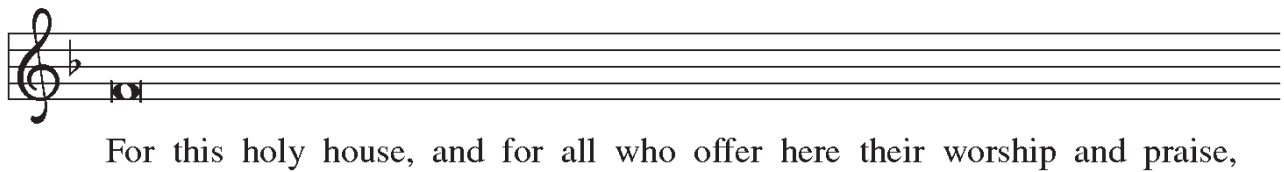
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



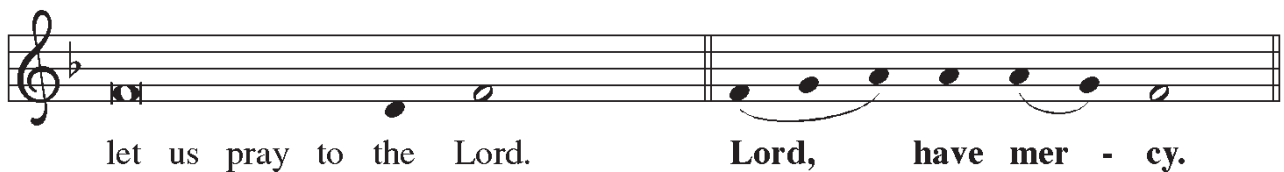
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



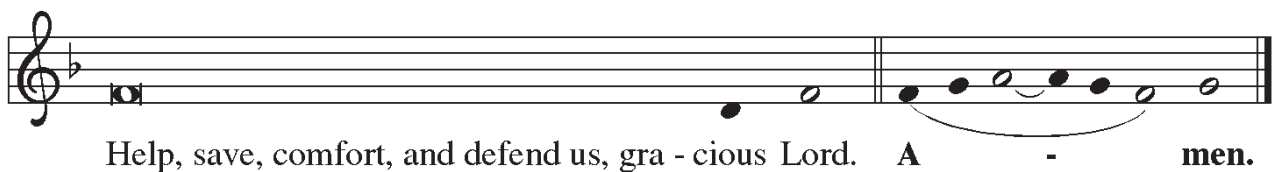
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

The first lesson comes from Psalm 90:1–6; 12

- ¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
- ³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”
- ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
- ⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
- ⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- ¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The second lesson comes from the first letter to the Thessalonians, the fifth chapter from the First Nations Version*

Now, my sacred family members, we have no need to write to you about the times and seasons that have been set in place by our Creator. For you know very well that the day of our Honored Chief will come without warning like a thief in the night.

At a time when people are saying, “Peace and safety,” sudden destruction will come down on their heads, like the pains of birth that come upon a woman with child, and there will be no way to escape.

* During the month of November, we will be using The First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. This is a translation created by a council coming out of twelve indigenous tribal heritages. It leans on language traditions common across tribal groups, and is rendered in English as most members of those tribal groups lost their original languages through rigorous, brutal governmental assimilation policies. The translation was created foremost as a “gift to English-speaking First Nations people and [then] to the entire sacred family, which is the body of the Chosen-One. Among the choices they made was to render names of people and places in terms of their meaning. So, Creator-Sets-Free is Jesus. The council rendered this without hyphens, but Pastor Phil has added those so you know when a naming is occurring. They also include the more common name in parentheses.

But that day should not catch you off guard like a thief in the night. For you, my sacred family members, are children of the light. You belong to the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. So let us not fall asleep as others do. Instead, we should stay sober and alert. For it is during the night that people sleep or get drunk.

But since we are children of the day, let us walk in sobriety and put on faith and love as a breastplate, and for a headdress let us put on the hope of being set free and made whole.

For the Great Spirit has not chosen us as targets of his anger, but as targets of his love. He will set us free and make us whole through our Honored Chief Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One.

He died for us so that we might live together with him, where we remain alive until he comes or have died and walked on. So encourage each other and help each other grow strong, just as you are already doing.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *Many Gifts, One Spirit*
Many gifts one spirit, many songs, one voice
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.
O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our difference unite us, in the circle of your love.

Allen Pote

O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

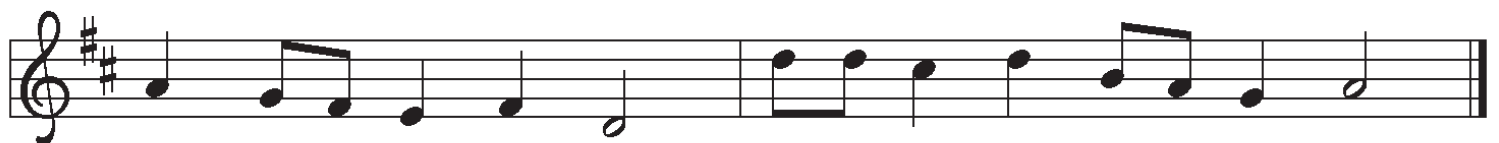
Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.

O, God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

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.

**The Good–Story for today was told by Gift–from–Creator (Matthew) the 25th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.**

Here is another way to see how the Creator’s good road from above will come: It is like a tribal headman preparing for a long journey. He gathered three trusted tribal members together to give them charge of his goods during his journey. He gave five herds of horses to one, two herds to another, and one herd to the third man, giving each one according to his ability to make a good trade. After that he left on his journey.

The man with five herds of horses went to work right away, traded well, and earned five more herds. In the same way the one with two herds used them to gain two more. But the one who had only one kept the herd well hidden and safe from thieves. Many moons passed before the headman returned from his journey. He gathered the trusted tribal members together to see how well they had traded. The one given five came forward and said, “Look, I have gained five more!”

“You have served me well, my good and trusted friend,” the headman said, “You have done well with a small amount, now I will give you much more. Come and live with my family and enjoy all I have.”

Then the man to whom he gave two herds came forward and said, “You gave me two herds, but I have four to give back to you.” The headman honored him and did the same for him as the one with ten.

Then the man to whom he had given one herd came to him and said, “Headman, I know you have a reputation of being a harsh man, taking what you did not plant and gathering what is not yours. I was afraid, so I hid the herd away to keep them safe for you. Here they are!”

The headman said to him, “You have broken the trust I gave you and have proven you are lazy and no good. If you knew I was a harsh man, why did you not ask the trading post to trade for them so there would be something to show for them when I returned?”

So he had told them to take the herd from him and give it to the one who had ten and said, “The ones who do well with what they are given will be given more, but the ones who do nothing with it will lose even what they had been given.” Then he had the man thrown out of his house and into the darkness outside, the place where they weep and grind their teeth together in anger and frustration.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones

Hymn O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#632

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

*Down to the River to Pray
Paçibells*

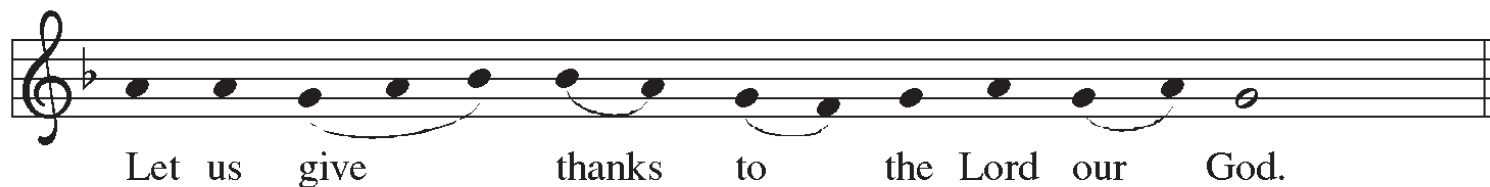
by Derek K. Hayes

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



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



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

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



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

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#674

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Concerto in b: Allegro*

Johann G Walther

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones

Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper

Reader: Roger Pomplun

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (19th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am
Strong Bodies – 1pm
Church Council
Meeting – 7pm

WEDNESDAY

Office Closed
No Text Study
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Thanksgiving Day
Church Closed

SUNDAY (26th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

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



2023-11-19

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Thanksgiving

Grace Lutheran Church will be closed Wednesday and Thursday for Thanksgiving. We will not be having a worship service on Thanksgiving. If you are looking for fellowship that evening, Spirit Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran will have a service at 6pm and Hope Lutheran will have one at 6:15pm.

Land Acknowledgements

What is up with Land Acknowledgements?

Land Acknowledgements are a way of confessing that with the land we live on we have inherited a history of cultural and physical genocide that cleared it for European immigrants to occupy. They are a small step toward faithfully and truthfully owning our past. This past year, the synod assembly of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, a gathering made up of lay representatives, pastors, and deacons, voted to recommend that all of our congregations consider participating in this moment of honesty. It is part of a larger movement in our denomination to seek truth and healing. More information on this effort can be found at: <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/Indigenous-Ministries-and-Tribal-Relations/Truth-and-Healing-Movement>

We invite you to find further steps finding ways to work for the cause of justice through advocacy for indigenous people, education about their history and current situation, and financial support of organizations that strengthen their communities. We will be using the First Nations Version of the New Testament during this month. Our book club has read multiple novels by indigenous people. Our next such book will be called *Two Old Women*, by Velma Wallis. Join us on Zoom, Monday, December 18th, at 2pm. Ask Pastor Phil for more details.

Sunday School

Classes will be held during the worship service following the children's message on the following dates:

- November 19
- December 3 & 17

Family Choir Schedule

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

- November 12
- November 19
- December 3
- December 17

The first rehearsal is this Sunday. See you there.

Blessing Box

A special thank you to our church members for supporting the Blessing Box, located at the front entrance of Grace Church. The Blessing Box provides non perishable food as well as hygiene items to our neighbors in need. As the weather becomes colder, we will not be collecting canned goods or liquid items since they may freeze and explode.

Some suggested items:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- hats
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- hand warmers
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- scarves
- socks
- granola bars
- peanut butter
- gloves

You are always welcome to put your items directly in the Blessing Box at any time.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mission Outreach Ministry



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