

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*September 15, 2024,
10:00am*

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Partita on Crucifer (Life High the Cross)

Charles Callahan

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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.

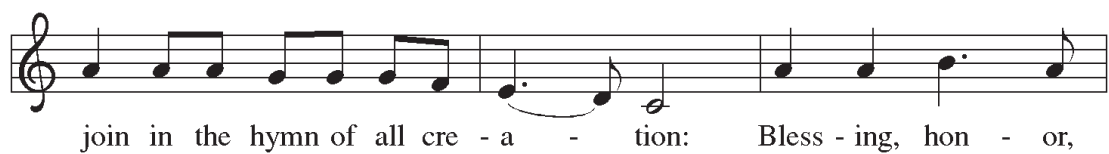
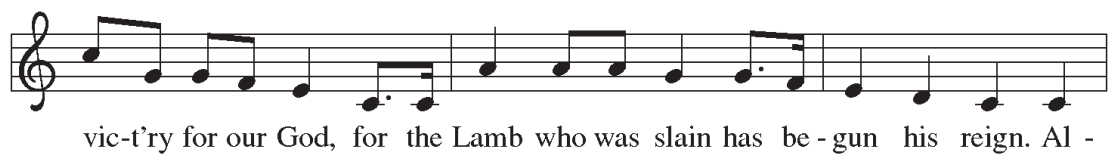
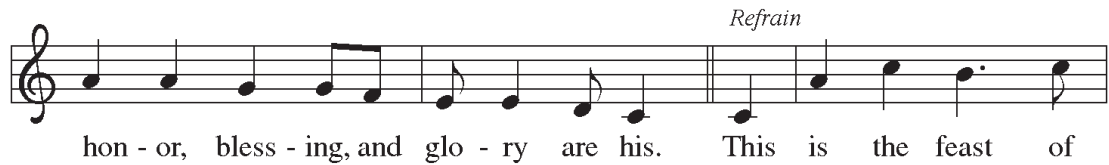
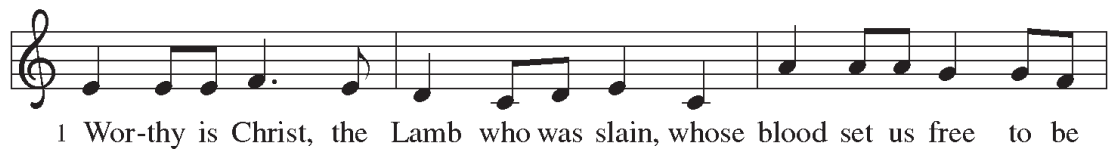
Opening Hymn

Lift High the Cross

#660

Apostolic Greeting

Hymn of Praise This Is the Feast



Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 50

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he awakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

⁹Who is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading is from James, chapter 3

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes.

and the good news will save them. 'Cause what does it profit people to acquire the whole world and forfeit their lives? 'Cause what would people give in exchange for their lives? 'Cause all who are ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, also the Human One will be ashamed of them when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

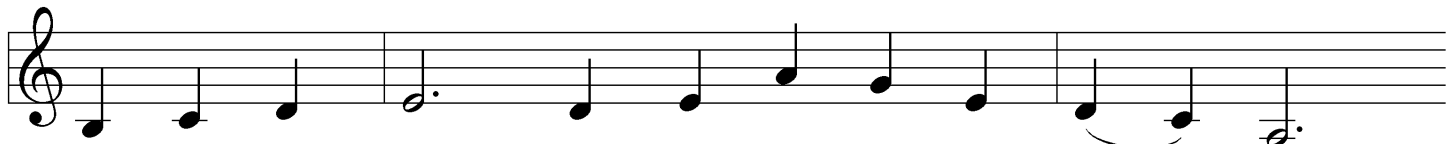
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

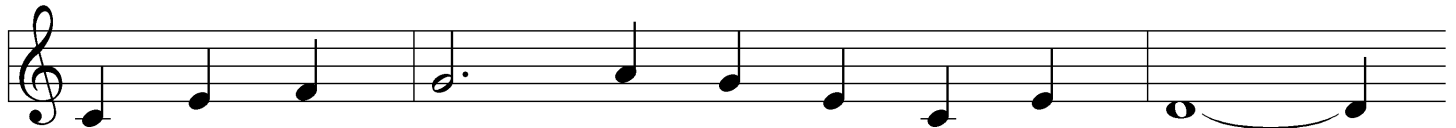
Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn of the Day

O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Aria

Craig Phillips

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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, 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, ho - san - na, 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

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

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

#798

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Praise to the Lord

Jan Bender

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones

Assisting Minister: Bev Page

Reader: Norma Lionberger

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Weekly Calendar

<p><u>SUNDAY (15th)</u> Coffee Hour – 9:30am Worship – 10am</p>	<p>Prayer Group – 11am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY</u></p> <p>Crafters – 10am Text Study – 12pm Choir Rehearsal – 7pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THURSDAY</u></p> <p>Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY (22th)</u></p> <p>Coffee Hour – 9:30am Worship – 10am</p>
<p><u>TUESDAY</u> ADRC – Stepping On – 10am</p>		
<p>Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, Theater Guild</p>		



City Council Report

We have had pretty good news in our engagement with the city council over the Habitat grant. You will recall that they had planned to lower the amount down to \$619,065. Several members of Grace wrote expressing concern and many showed up at the hearing with city staff and the open forum time in a meeting prior to the vote. Our President, Barb Eidahl, spoke eloquently of our concerns, Pastor Phil added his voice to the conversation, Paul Lokken spoke as both a Habitat board member and a Grace member. We asked for the full amount initially promised; Habitat more realistically asked the amount to be raised to \$850,000. Grace members were also present on the night of these three events.

Thanks to these efforts and the motion by council person Anderson, seconded by council person Serrano, the proposal was altered to give Habitat \$844,065 toward the project. This was passed with eight votes in favor and one abstention.

The council members themselves were impacted by the communications they had received and they highlighted the follow reasons for positive votes.

- The importance of not violating trust after a promise was made.
- This will be a true community partnership with many people coming together to make it happen.
- When a traditional organization like a church acts innovatively and sacrificially, they deserve support.
- This project adds to the number of housing units in the city instead of fixing up already existing units.
- This project is so impressive that others will follow its example.
- This is an important model not only for Eau Claire, but for the country as a whole.

This all presents of our presence in the community in a very positive light. One thing was clarified in the process. This was a new and a one time only grant category related to Covid. Only after the city had been almost through with the application process did HUD clarify elements that were ambiguous, such as the need for administration of the projects by someone other than those granted the money. This explains the \$171,000 the city housing department received to administer this grant and monitor our compliance for the next 20 years. It also might account for what looked to us as confusion. The last hurdle we have is having HUD give a thumbs up to the revised vote distribution.

Again thank you for your efforts and patience. And special thanks to our leadership for advocating and organizing on our behalf. If you contacted council people, feel free to thank them.

Pastor Phil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School

Sunday School is about to start up again. It will be on the first and third Sunday's of each month right after the children's message. The first session will be on September 22. See you there!

Small Catechism

Pastor Phil will lead a series on Martin Luther's Small Catechism every other week during the Fall called Getting To The Heart Of Faith. Each session will be 45 minutes long shortly after worship ends.

- Sept 22 Getting to the heart of faith: an introduction to the catechism
- Oct 6 The Ten Commandments
- Oct 20 The Apostles Creed
- Nov 10 The Lord's Prayer
- Nov 24 The Sacraments and Daily Life

Copies of the Small Catechism are available in the narthex.

Ringers for the Fall Arts Celebration

We are looking for people to ring in the combined handbell choir for the Fall Arts Celebration on November 3 at 2:00pm. Rehearsals will be at Grace Lutheran Church on October 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 5:30pm. Please plan on making at least three rehearsals.

The handbells will also be accompanying the vocal choir; rehearsals will be the same days in October starting at 6:00pm.

If you are interested in playing, please contact Karen Lionberger (bellhog76@gmail.com). Thank you,

Karen

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/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713