

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

OPENING MUSIC

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

Dietrich Buxtehude (Public Domain)

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

ELW 786 (One License)

Please be seated.

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM & PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Students receiving Bibles are invited to gather around the font.

Today we give thanks for the gift of baptism by together recalling what reformer Martin Luther wrote about this gift in the Small Catechism. So I ask you:

What is baptism?

Baptism is not simply plain water.

**Instead, it is water used according to God's command
and connected with God's word.**

What gifts does baptism grant?

**It brings about forgiveness of sins,
redeems from death and the devil,
and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it,
as the words and promise of God declare.**

How can water do such great things?

**Clearly the water does not do it,
but the word of God,
which is with and alongside the water,
and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water.
For without the word of God
the water is plain water and not a baptism,
but with the word of God it is a baptism,
that is, a grace-filled water of life
and a bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed in God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Today we have our Preschool, 3rd Grade Sunday School students, and first year Confirmation Students with us here at the font.

When you were baptized, your family and your church family made some promises to God. They promised to live with you among God's faithful people, bring you to the word of God and the holy supper, teach you the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in your hands the holy scriptures, and nurture you in faith and prayer.

You are now at ages when you are learning stories or beginning to read the Bible for yourself or studying together in class. Together we are going to fulfill our promise to God to place in your hands the holy scriptures.

Bibles are presented to students.

God's word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

The congregation blesses the children.

**May you find God in these scriptures,
the holy story of God's love for us,
and may it open your eyes
to see God in the world around you. Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Exodus 32:7-14, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 78*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

Psalms 51:1-10

The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.

SECOND READING:

1 Timothy 1:12-17, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 208*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

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

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 15:1-10, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 78*

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to come forward during the message.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

ELW 779 (Public Domain)

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. A *brief silence.*

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our prayers _____. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a sign of God's peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

INSTALLATION AND BLESSING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.



OFFERING ANTHEM

"Psalm 51"

Mark Patterson (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 191, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

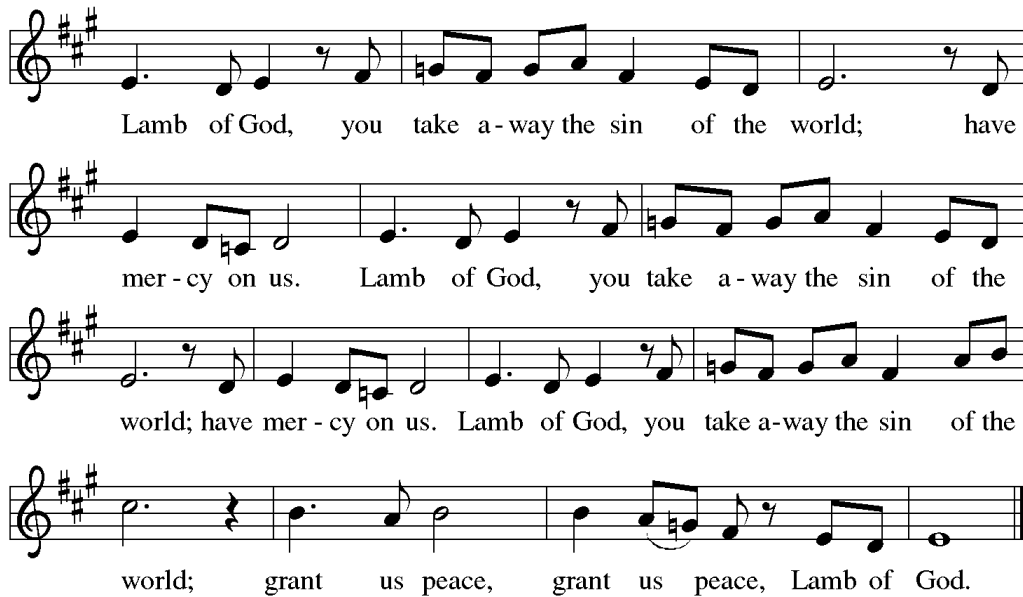
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 191 (Augsburg Fortress)



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, Lamb of God.

"O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

ELW 675 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, **through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

ELW 807 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

setting, Kenneth T. Kosche (One License)

Worship Team

A/V Team: Andy Bellavia

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Alan Beckman, Beth Miller,
Mark Miller, Sally Sheahan

Greeters: Sally Sheahan, Fay Wilson

Acolyte: Madelyn Emery, Evan Lanham, Robert Metze

Reader: Michael Liedtke

Ushers: Faith Metze, Al Wilson, Fay Wilson

Children's Sermon: Jon Bergstrom

Altar Guild: Barb Aavang, Joy Aavang, Jen Freeman, Mike Freeman

Musicians: Jan Burns, Cindy Meyer, Joyful Messengers

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Please join us for coffee and snacks after worship.

Presence Light Sponsor:

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary, given by John & Mary Widmayer.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In honor of Worship Volunteers, given by Bill & Nancy Kreznor.

In honor of Samantha & Mike's 40th and 70th birthdays, given by The Conover family.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

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