



Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440
gracelutheranhatfield.org

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025 9:15 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. D. E. Littleton, Transitional Pastor
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

**by Roberta Rowland-Raybold
(1938-)**

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**



GATHERING HYMN: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

Call to Worship

P: Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;

C: it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

P: Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

C: Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

P: He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

C: Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.

P: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.

C: From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;

P: from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

C: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

P: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

C: May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Hymn of Praise: Bless the Lord, O My Soul (*sing 3 times*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless the Lord, O my soul;

The first line of the hymn is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless the Lord, O my soul;"

and all that is with - in me bless God's ho - ly name.

The second line of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "and all that is with - in me bless God's ho - ly name."

Text: Ps. 103:1

Music: PRAISE PSALM 103, traditional

GREETING

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

Prayer of the Day

P. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.



⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Psalm 33:12-22

(read)

- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!
- ¹³ **The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**
- ¹⁴ God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.
- ¹⁵ **God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- ¹⁷ **The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**
- ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ **to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**
- ²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.
- ²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**
- ²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

“All God's Children's Time”

Annette

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sing twice before & once after Gospel reading)



Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

P. The gospel of our Lord, according to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon: Fear Not Little Flock

Pastor Littleton

HYMN of the DAY: Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

The 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

To the petition "God of grace," please respond: "Hear our prayer."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

The ushers will pass the offering plates at this time.

Music at the Offering: Arietta

**by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)**



OFFERTORY

ELW Setting 3



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.



You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C. Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins_ of the world, have mer - cy on us, have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins_ of the world, have
mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins_ of the world, grant_ us_ peace, grant_ us_ peace.

Communion Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 502

Please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Mothering God,

you gathered us to your table

and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit

to love our neighbors as ourselves

and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;

the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Toccata “Day of Delight”

**by Brenda Portman
(1982-)**

Serving today – Thank You!!

Preacher and Presider, Rev. Dr. Littleton

Minister of Music, Susanna Faust

Lector: Karen Seiler

Ushers: Ken Seiler and Peggy Schmidt

Communion Assistant: Jaime Kaler

Altar Guild: Emily Woltmann

Acolyte: Usher

Altar Flower Prep: Jaime Kaler

Council Offering & Lockup: TBD

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

Copyrights and Permissions

Used with permission under OneLicense A-739245 (includes podcasting)
and CCLI #21382258 and 21382265:

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers by Roberta Rowland-Raybold (1938-) © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

Arietta by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) public domain

Toccata “Day of Delight” by Brenda Portman (1982-) ©2024 Augsburg Fortress

Liturgical texts and music reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual Liturgies
License #SA-S025662.



Grace Lutheran Church

40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440 215-855-4676

Pastor: pastorglacehatfield@gmail.com

Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com

[Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net,](mailto:steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net)

[215-368-2052](tel:215-368-2052)