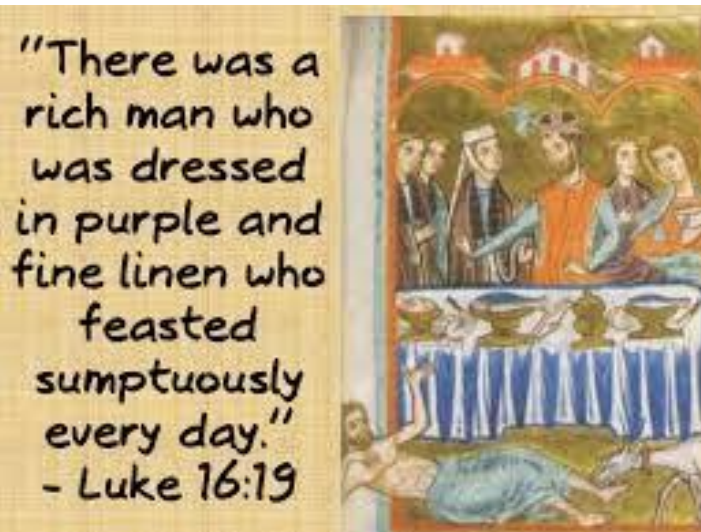




Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440
gracelutheranhatfield.org
215.855.4676

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025 9:30 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: Goin' Home

by Marianne Kim
(1972-)

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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.

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.

GATHERING HYMN: Come Ye Thankful People Come

ELW 693

P: The heavens declare the glory of God

All: The skies display the work of his hands

Children of God, we are gathered at the gracious invitation of God who is our Creator, our Sustainer, and the Giver of all good gifts. God welcomes us and receives our prayers and praises, our worship and work. God delights in what we have created with our hands, engineered in our minds, and offered up in our hearts. God delights in our voices, so let us raise them up in gratitude and praise.

Bless the Lord, my soul.

All my inmost being bless God's holy name.

God of bounty, God of goodness.

We praise you for your abundant gifts.

God of plenty, God of grace.

We offer you the works of our hands.

Bless the Lord, my soul

Forget not all God's benefits

From fields and farms, cubicles and courtrooms

God delights in our offering of work

So bring your treasures, the fruits of your labor

Receive them, O God as our thankful offering of praise.

P: 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' (Gen 8:22)

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord,

C: for he satisfies the thirsty,

he fills the hungry with good things,

and he heals the afflicted.

Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

P: We thank you, gracious Father,

C: that you provide for all our needs,

for food on our tables,

for the clothes on our bodies,

for the beds we sleep in,

for the dwellings that shelter us.

P: We praise you, Lord,

**C: for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs,
for the things that make our work easier,
for the conveniences of modern life,
for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.
Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Praise: Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

Prayer of the Day

P. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.



⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,

⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,

⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

Psalm 146

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in

the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

“All God’s Children’s Time”

Annette

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

P. The gospel of our Lord, according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon: Take hold of the Life that is really Life

Pastor Littleton

HYMN of the DAY: Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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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 “Receive 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: De Colores (Sing of Colors)

by Raquel Martinez
 (1940-)

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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.



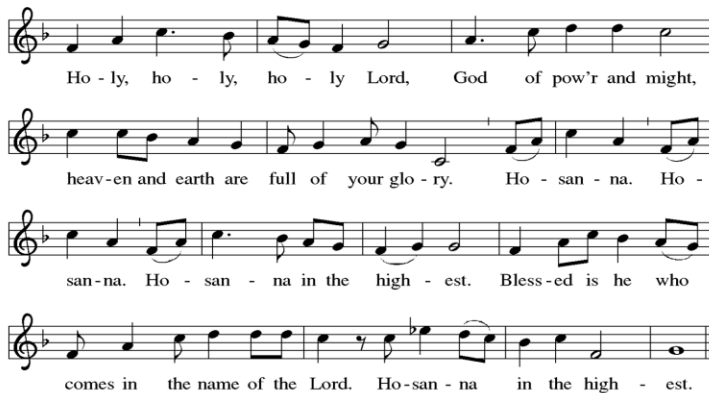
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 for 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.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

Communion Hymn: We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Farewell and Blessings to Susanna Faust

Susanna, as you leave our *congregation*, we wish to bid you farewell.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴*praise him with timbrel and dancing,*

praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵*praise him with the clash of cymbals,*

praise him with resounding cymbals. Psalm 150:3-5

P: Holy God, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for Susanna and the gift of music.

C: Thank you for the gift of music.

P: For the melodies that soothe our souls and the rhythms that make us want to dance, we give you praise.

C: We sing praises to your name, O Most High.

P: For the immense talent of composers, singers, and instrumentalists who share their gifts with the world, we give thanks.

C: Grant them love for you and for all your people.

P: May their music inspire us to find hope in times of sorrow, and joy in times of celebration.

C: May their music inspire us all.

P: Music has the power to connect us, to break down barriers, and to express what words alone cannot.

C: We give thanks for this power to communicate love and peace.

P: Susanna we are thankful for the countless hours of practice and dedication,

C: We thank you, O God.

P: For the music that has lifted our spirits and drawn us closer to you,

C : We thank you, O God.

P: For the talent shared and the leadership offered,

C : We thank you, O God.

P: May you continue to find joy and purpose in your musical journey,

C : Go in peace.

P: May you be blessed in your new endeavors,

C: Go in peace.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Festal March

**by Florence Beatrice Price
(1887-1953)**

Serving today – Thank You!!

Preacher and Presider, Rev. Dr. Littleton

Minister of Music, Susanna Faust

Lector: Cathy Farrell

Ushers: Jeff Krout and Kay Deussing

Communion Assistant: Cathy Farrell

Altar Guild: Emily Woltmann

Acolyte: Usher

Altar Flower Prep: Emily Woltmann

Coffee Hour: Don Capanear

Council Offering & Lockup: Cathy Farrell

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

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www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranHatfield.



TODAY is Harvest Home SUNDAY

Thank you for your donations of food for Harvest Home. These gifts will be shared with *Manna on Main Street* in Lansdale and *the Hatfield Food Cupboard* at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church



Grace Lutheran Church

40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440

215-855-4676

Pastor: pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com

Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com

Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net

215-368-2052