



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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Wayne Shelor, Interim Pastor
Tedd Didden, Minister of Music
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

A. Welcome

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.

P. 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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.**

GREETING

P. 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting 3

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

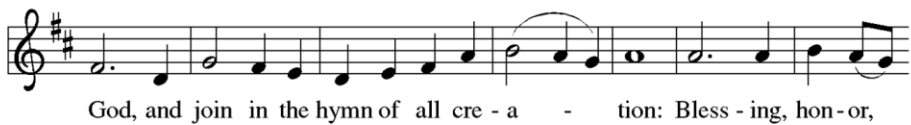
Refrain



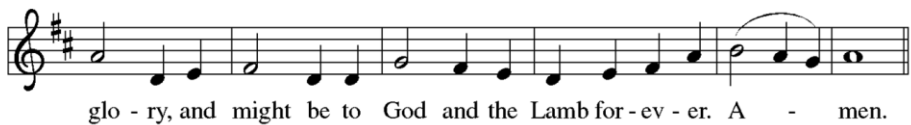
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

Prayer of the Day

P. With our siblings around the world, let us pray together:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

[¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
] ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹ you will not always accuse us,

nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Please Stand***ELW Setting 3**

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his

entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon: Pastor Skyle Rea

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ELW 772

THE CREED

A. Together with our siblings around the globe let us confess our faith.

**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

A. To the petition “Hear us, O God,” please respond “Your mercy is great.”

GREETING OF THE PEACE

A. The peace of Christ is with you always. **C.** And also with you.
Please share this peace with one another.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *The ushers will pass the offering plates at this time.*

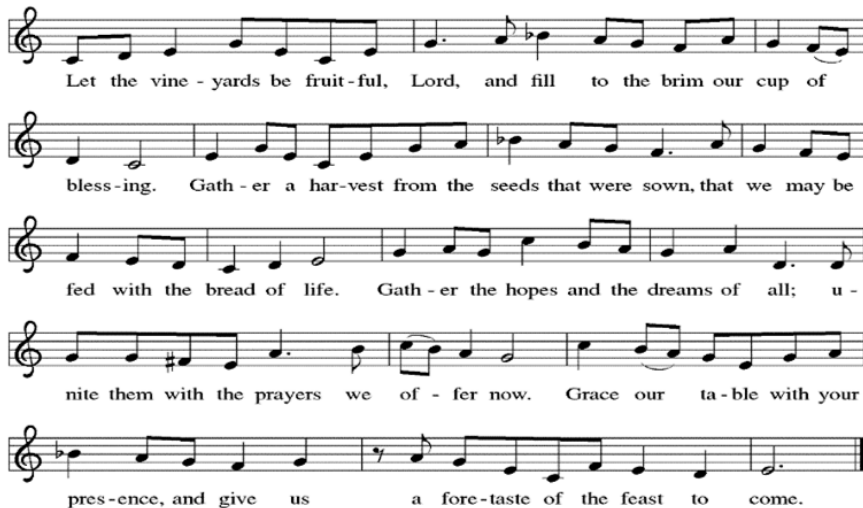
Music at the Offering: Prayer

Alexandre Guilmant

OFFERTORY

Please Stand

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. 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

P. 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus took bread, 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 has risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

P. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

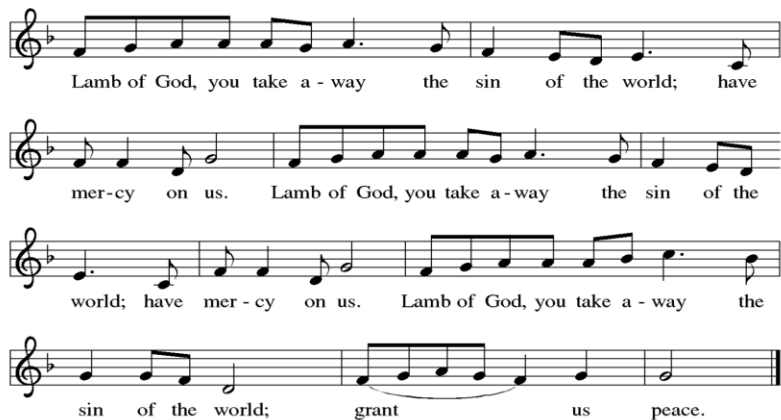
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P. Loving God, we join you at this table trusting in your abundant mercy. Grant that we, here in this room or in distant places, may know the peace and joy of your ever-abiding presence. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

We gather together at the Lord's table, where our Lord welcomes all. If you have received communion anywhere before, you are welcome at this table, please come! At the usher's direction, come forward to the chancel (filling in from your left) to receive the bread (gluten free is available) from the Pastor. The Assisting Minister will then offer you a cup from the tray (red is wine, white is grape juice). A second helper has a basket for your empty cup, then return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW 759

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C. Amen.

SENDING

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

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BLESSING

P. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with his favor and give you his peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802

A. PRAYER:

Dear Lord, thank you, for loving us. Please direct us in all we do that our works begun, continued, and ended, may strengthen our ministry for the Lord in this place, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Praise to God (old Russian Hymn)

James Pethel

Serving today: Thank you !

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Skylе Rea

Assisting Minister: Karen Seiler

Lector: Jean Shaffer

Minister of Music: Tedd Didden

Ushers: Jeff Krout

Altar Guild: Emily Woltmann

Altar Flower Prep: Emily Woltmann

Coffee Hour: Ken Seiler

Council Offering & Lockup: Ken Seiler

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

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To reach Pastor Wayne call his cell (571.550.3229) or use this email: revwrshelor@gmail.com.

If Pastor is not available and you have an urgent need, please call Cathy Farrell at 215.430.3605 or cifarrell@comcast.net.

SOMETHING NEW: We are asking the members and friends of this congregation to pause each day at 7:00 PM and pray this same prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you, for loving us. Please direct us in all we do that our works begun, continued, and ended, may strengthen our ministry for the Lord in this place, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

2027 Serving Schedule Volunteers....Yes, it's that time of year to start setting up the 2027 serving schedule. If you are currently on the schedule, we will keep you on unless we hear from you by 9/30/26. We are always looking for new volunteers. Please contact one of us if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Altar Guild - Emily Woltmann

215-822-5909, emiwol95@gmail.com

Assisting Minister - Carol MacDonald

215-872-0472, carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com

Lector and Acolytes - Kathy Stawasz

215-760-6297, kathystawasz@gmail.com

Ushers - Kay Stone

215-368-3725, kaystone@comcast.net

Live Streaming - Harold Schaefer

484-576-0611, schaefer_19440@yahoo.com

Altar Flower Prep - Kathy Stawasz

215-760-6297, kathystawasz@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for volunteering!



Grace Lutheran Church

40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440

215-855-4676

Pastor: revwrshelor@gmail.com

Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com

Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net

215-368-2052