



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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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

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.**

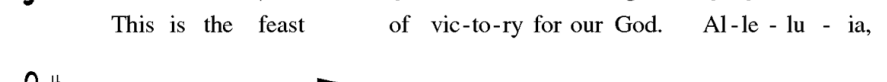
HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting 3

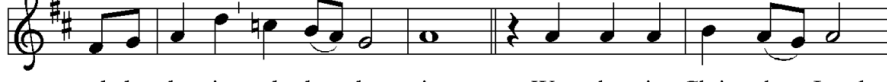
Refrain



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

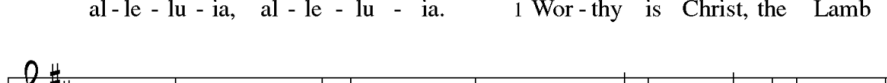


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

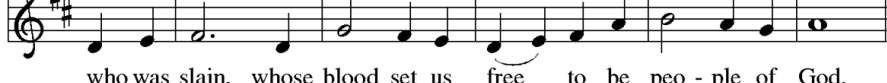


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

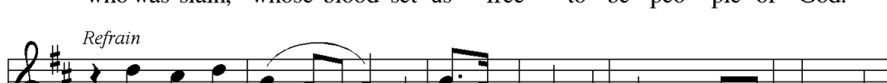
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This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

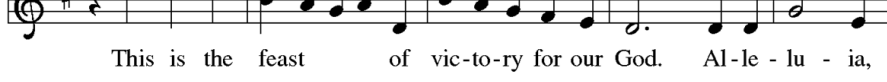


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

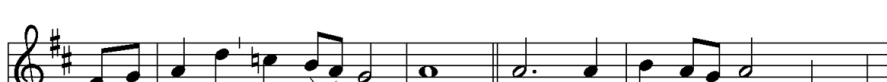


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

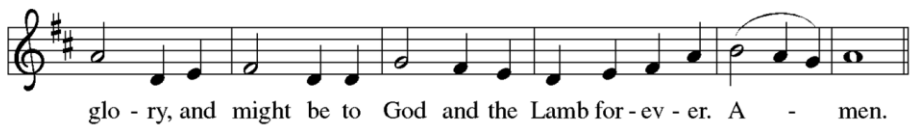
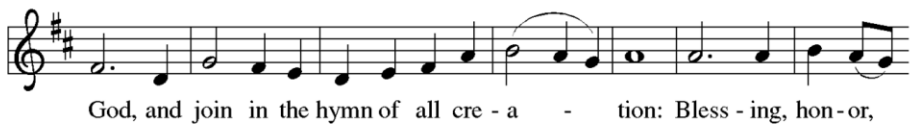
Refrain



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



Prayer of the Day

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Psalms 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,**

and teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

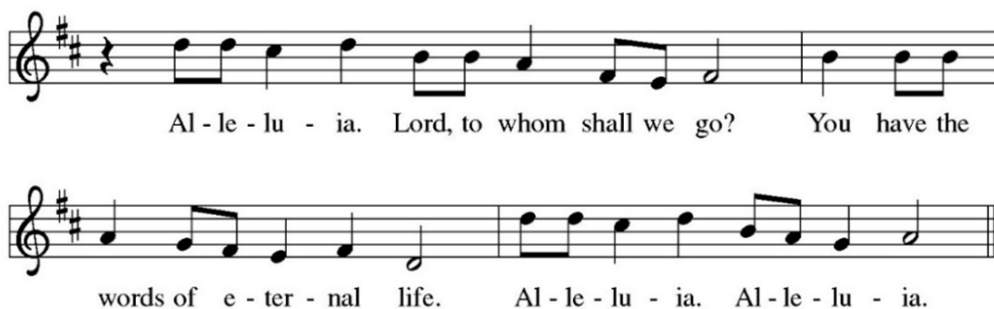
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please Stand

ELW Setting 3



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are

afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon: Pastor Wayne Shelor

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: You Are the Way

ELW 758

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: **Apres Une Vision**

Gabriel Faure/Lani Smith

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.**

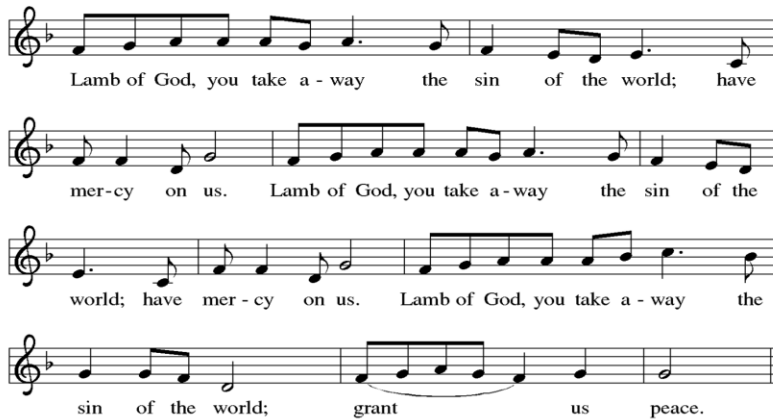
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

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.

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: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

ELW 883

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: Grand Choeur

Theodore Salome

Serving today: Thank you !

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Wayne Shelor

Assisting Minister: Lennon Kaler

Lector: Jaime Kaler

Minister of Music: Tedd Didden

Ushers: Jaime Kaler and Kathy Stawasz

Altar Guild: Emily Woltmann

Altar Flower Prep: Emily Woltmann

Coffee Hour: Bev Smith

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!



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

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