

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 24, 2023
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ringling of the Bell
Centering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 145)

I will exalt you, my God and king,

I will bless your name forever and ever!

One generation shall praise your works to another.

We will declare your power to the young!

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty

And all your marvelous works!

They shall publish remembrance of your great goodness,

They shall sing joyfully of your justice!

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice,

yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have

for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others

and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away

from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you

and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading ELW 401

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.

- 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
- 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
- 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NIOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God,
**you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot
rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to
embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,

To give heed to what is said by your Son.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out

about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Hymn of the Day: Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

Lord of All Hopefulness



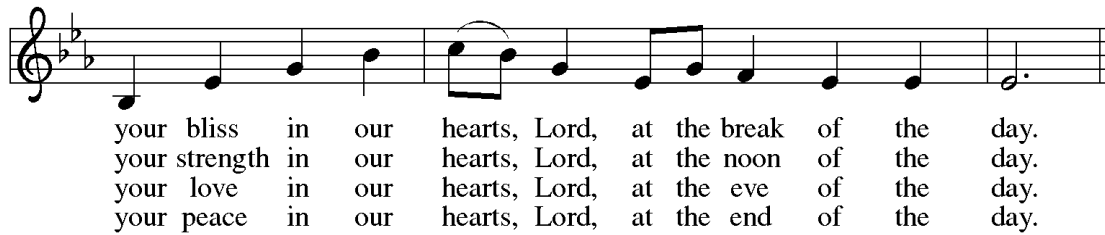
1	Lord	of	all	hope - ful - ness,	Lord	of	all	joy,
2	Lord	of	all	ea - ger - ness,	Lord	of	all	faith,
3	Lord	of	all	kind - li - ness,	Lord	of	all	grace,
4	Lord	of	all	gen - tle - ness,	Lord	of	all	calm,



whose	trust,	ev - er	child - like,	no	cares	could	de - stroy:
whose	strong	hands	were	skilled	at	the	plane and the
your	hands	swift	to	wel - come,	your	arms	to em - brace:
whose	voice	is	con - tent - ment,	whose	pres - ence	is	balm:



be	there	at	our	wak - ing,	and	give	us,	we	pray,
be	there	at	our	la - bors,	and	give	us,	we	pray,
be	there	at	our	hom - ing,	and	give	us,	we	pray,
be	there	at	our	sleep - ing,	and	give	us,	we	pray,



Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Confession of Faith

Living together in trust and hope, 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 of Intercession

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them

courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Bring healing of body, mind, and spirit to all we name before you now... Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song: We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 681

Verses 1 & 3

We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh-ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God,

Our maker, our lover, our keeper,

For the universe beyond our knowing,

For lands and seas and all their creatures,

For friends and strangers and family,

For homes and grocery stores and schools.

We praise you for your covenant people,

For Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam,

For centuries of faithful Christians,

For Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul.

We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,

Who saves us from sin and from evil.

And who...

Sung Words of Institution:

Verses 1 & 2: Pastor, Verse 3: All



3. So, we thank You for _ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we

see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed. And we re -

-mem - ber Your won - drous _ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _

blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous _

love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

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Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Invitation

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.

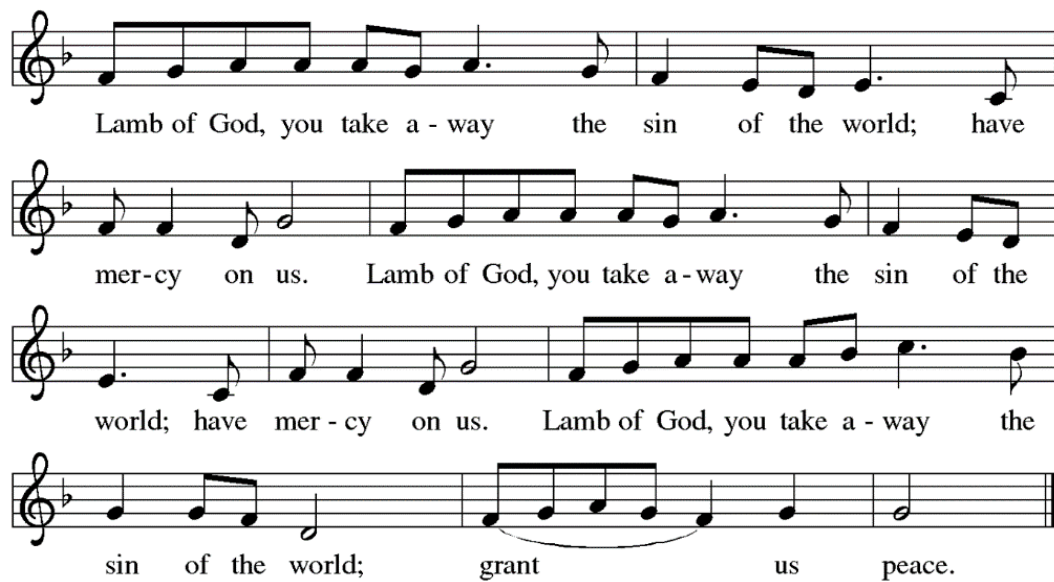
Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live. **Amen.**

Distribution

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten free bread options are available upon request.

Communion Song(s):



**Come, Let Us Eat
Around You, O Lord, Jesus
In the Singing**

**ELW 491
ELW 468
ELW 466**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: O Zion, Haste

ELW 668

O Zion, Haste

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain
Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,
tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp-tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude