

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 7, 2025 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as “Ordinary Time” and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which we live our Christian faith in the regular routine of daily life. This seems simple enough, but the way the Sundays are counted on the calendar gets a bit confusing. It begins with the First Sunday after Pentecost and then counts sequentially until the 24th Sunday after Pentecost which is Christ the King, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If it stopped here that would be clear, but each Sunday during this time is also given another title: Proper 7-29 where the numbers do not coincide with the numbered Sundays after Pentecost. This proper numbering system is based on the moveable date of Easter. Honestly, there is no need to be concerned about this numbering framework, just focus on the ordinary daily life of Jesus as he goes about teaching, healing, and loving people as you live your ordinary life each day!

OPENING HYMN #649: O Jesus, Joy Of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste in you our liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spi - rits yearn wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

life and our true light, we seek the peace your love im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your pres - ence we dis -
mo - ments calm and bright; oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts, and stand re - joic - ing in your sight.
head, our thirst - ing souls to quench and fill.
cern, blest, when our faith can hold you fast.
way, shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.**

GLORIA *BCP p. 356*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Cheryle Kahl** † Next Sunday's Reader: **Karen Davenport***

FIRST READING Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

*(Verses read alternately by the reader and people, breaking at the *)*

¹Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

²You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

⁴You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹²For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹³I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁴My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁵Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁶How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

¹⁷If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be
like yours.

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our
sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church
in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my
God because I hear of your love for all the saints and
your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing
of your faith may become effective when you perceive all
the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed
received much joy and encouragement from your love,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed
through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to
command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal
to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old
man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am
appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I
have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was
useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you
and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart,
back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he
might be of service to me in your place during my
imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do
nothing without your consent, in order that your good
deed might be voluntary and not something forced.
Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for
a while, so that you might have him back forever, no
longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved

brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for

the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

NICENE CREED *BCP p. 358*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through

the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE *BCP p. 387, Form III*

The Leader and people pray responsively:

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant adds a Concluding Collect (BCP p. 394, #4):

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 361, Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this,

all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God, for all of us, the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

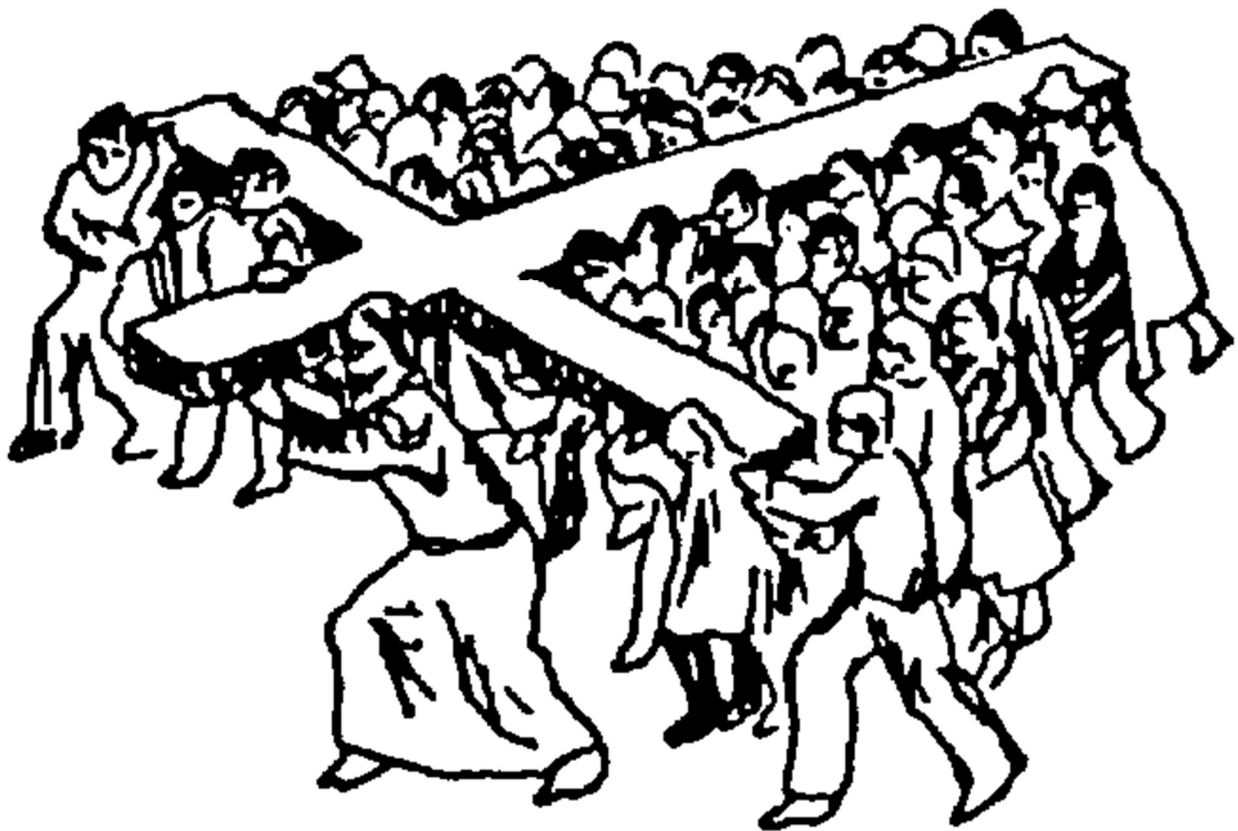
After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior

Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. AMEN.



BLESSING

May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and earth, give you strength to do God's will in this world; and may the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forever. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Go Forth For God

1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good
 2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the
 3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the
 4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we see face to
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his
 ev - ery gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

DISMISSAL *BCP p. 366*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Alleluia!**

The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Nina DiGaetano; Donna Hanes; Katherine Domienik; Jasmine Gardner; Tom & Sandy Krell; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Andy Jaeger; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Beth Smith; Bill Sobkowicz; Martha Wehba; Carolyn Siewert; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Joshua R.; Suzanne LaMontagne; John Schober; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Ernie Simon; Nancy & Bob Johnson; John Kelvin; Rick Gherisi; Rory Heinz; Lynn Vineyard; Erica Fields; Emily Lau-Ward & Josh; Sue Sargent; Jim, Sean, Seth, and Jason Cueny; Dave Otto; Alessandro Biehl; Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; the St. Peter family; the Schlanbusch family.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

*In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office.
Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them
to the prayer list.*

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open **Mondays and Thursdays** from **8:45 AM to 2:45 PM** and **Tuesdays** from **8:45 AM to 10:45 AM**.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the book club will be held at Grace Church on **Thursday, September 11** at **6 PM**. We'll be discussing *The Little Liar*, by Mitch Albom. Join us! If you have any questions, please call Ann Strevel.

QUARTERS FOR A CAUSE

Join us on **Saturday, September 20** for a fun night of Quarters for a Cause! Doors open at **5 PM** and the bidding starts at **6 PM**. Just **\$5** per person buys three paddles; bring an item for the food pantry (especially peanut butter and/or cereal) and get an extra paddle. We'll be raffling off themed baskets and baked goods, and don't forget to take part in the 50/50 drawing! Hot dogs, chips, beverages, and desserts will be available for purchase. Please call Christa Carpenter at (586) 663-6246 with any questions or donations.