

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 17, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:30 Bulletin

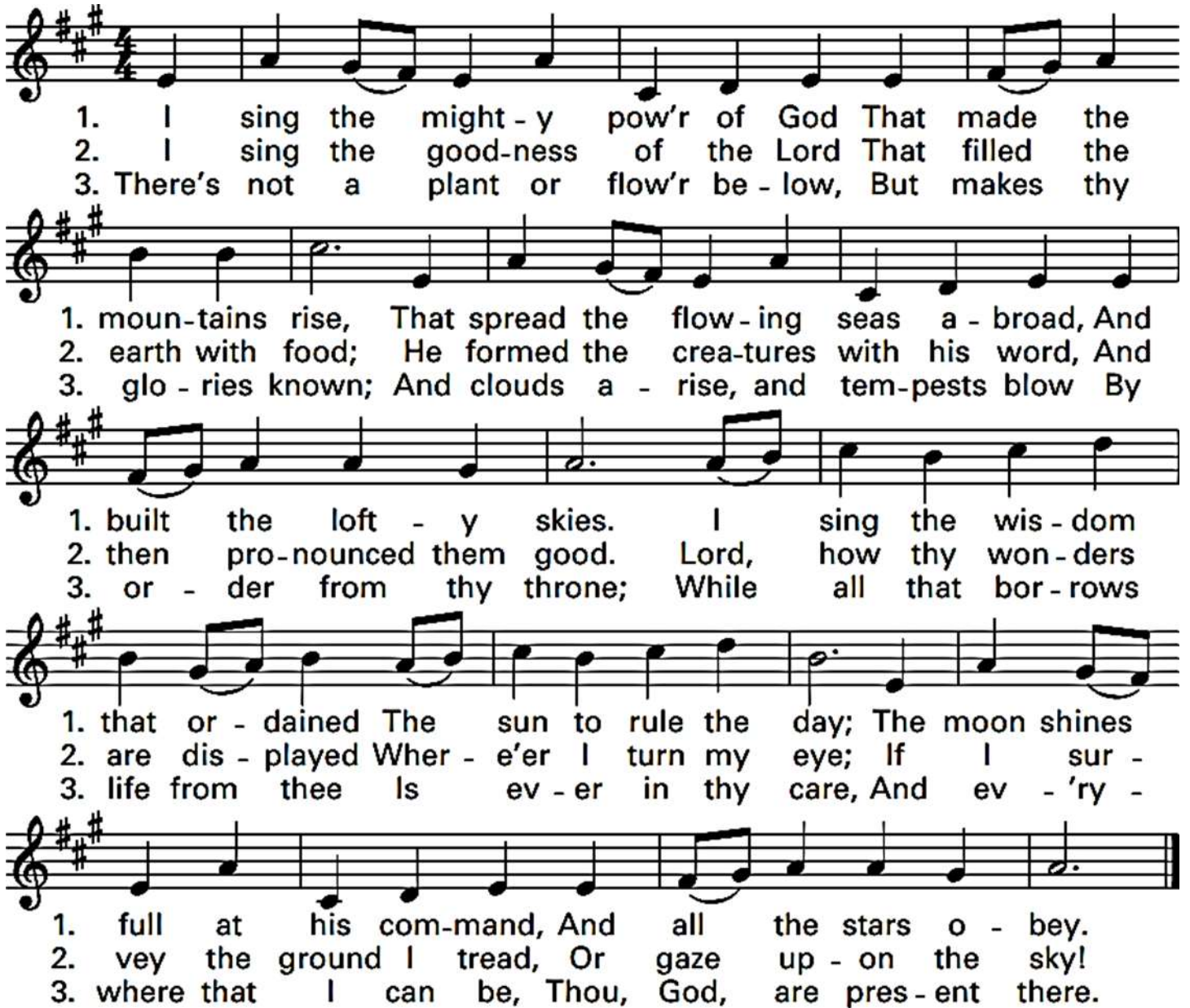
LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The season after Easter Day until Pentecost is called the **Easter Season** or **Eastertide** and lasts 50 days. The central theme of Eastertide is the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life, hope, and redemption. This is the most joyful season in the Christian calendar, the mood is bright and triumphant. The scripture readings focus on the appearances of the risen Christ and the beginnings of the Christian community with the missionary work of the apostles. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing joy and purity.



OPENING HYMN: I Sing The Mighty Power Of God

Please stand as you are able



1. I sing the might - y pow'r of God That made the
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the
3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, But makes thy

1. moun-tains rise, That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, And
2. earth with food; He formed the crea-tures with his word, And
3. glo - ries known; And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow By

1. built the loft - y skies. I sing the wis - dom
2. then pro-nounced them good. Lord, how thy won - ders
3. or - der from thy throne; While all that bor - rows

1. that or - dained The sun to rule the day; The moon shines
2. are dis - played Wher - e'er I turn my eye; If I sur -
3. life from thee Is ev - er in thy care, And ev - 'ry -

1. full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
2. vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the sky!
3. where that I can be, Thou, God, are pres - ent there.

ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **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

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN.**

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

FIRST READING Acts 1:6-14

Please be seated

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my

witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

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

¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;*
let those who hate him flee before him.

²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;*
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;*
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;*
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows,*
God in his holy habitation!

⁶God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;*
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,*
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,*
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;*
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

¹⁰Your people found their home in it;*
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

³³Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;*
sing praises to the Lord.

³⁴He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;*
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

³⁵Ascribe power to God;*
**his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.**

³⁶How wonderful is God in his holy places!*
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when

his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

Please stand as you are able

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world,

but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

Please be seated

NICENE CREED *BCP p. 358*

Please stand as you are able

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

The Leader and people pray responsively:

Christ is risen—alleluia! In the confidence of the Resurrection, we now pray in our Savior's name for all of God's people throughout the world, saying: Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace. Awake, O Church, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love. Awake, O World, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each person might share with and honor the other. Awake, O People, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the poor of the earth, O God, for the victims of warfare and natural disasters, and for refugees around the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela. Awake, O Downcast, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our community, O God, as we pray for the children in our lives and in our world. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. Awake, O Family, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

That they might know your saving help. Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness. Awake, O Saints, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Awake, O Soul, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy!

Alleluia, amen!

CONCLUDING COLLECT

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **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

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

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

Celebrant continues:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all; your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign, and to give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming

in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

For it is through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. 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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

COMMUNION

Please be seated

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

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

BLESSING

May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world. And may the blessing of God Almighty—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**



CLOSING HYMN: God Of Grace And God Of Laughter



1 God of grace and God of laugh-ter, sing-ing worlds from naught to be—
2 When our lives are torn by sad-ness, heal our wounds with tune-ful balm;
3 Turn our sigh-ing in-to sing-ing, mu-sic born of hope re-stored;



sun and stars and all there-af-ter joined in cos-mic har-mo-ny:
when all seems dis-cord-ant mad-ness, help us find a meas-ured calm.
set our souls and voic-es ring-ing, tune our hearts in true ac-cord:



give us songs of joy and won-der, mu-sic mak-ing hearts re-joice;
Stead-y us with mu-sic's an-chor when the storms of life in-crease;
till we form a might-y cho-rus join-ing an-gel choirs a-bove,



let our prais-es swell like thun-der, ech-o-ing our Mak-er's voice.
in the midst of hurt and ran-cor, make us in-stru-ments of peace.
with all those who went be-fore us, in e-ter-nal hymns of love.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant My friends, our worship has now ended. Let us go forth in peace to show the world by our actions and our words the saving power of the risen Jesus! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **We will, with God's help! 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 our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; 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; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Basse; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Jerry Gardner; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Jane Kaminski; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org***

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!

CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

GARDENS OF GRACE

Please see the *Amazing Grace* newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates on our church's gardens and ways you can help out. Need service hours? This is a great way to earn them! We'll be planting seeds this month to add color and can always use more hands.



For the People of Somalia

Merciful God, our **light in the darkness** who strengthens the powerless, as we grow weary of what seems to be an **unending cycle of news** of war, suffering, and death, **remind us never to cease praying** for those who endure these realities not as headlines but as daily life. **We pray for** those facing hunger, insecurity, and U.S. strikes in **Somalia**, where famine and hardship continue to threaten lives. As the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran places **further strain** on a system already marked by severe shortages, **be with the health workers** who must make the hard choices of cutting rations meant for **malnourished children**. Look with compassion, oh Christ, upon the hungry children, as **you fed the multitudes** with bread enough for all, for **you are the light** who shines in the darkness and gives life to all. Amen.
