

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 19, 2026 – The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

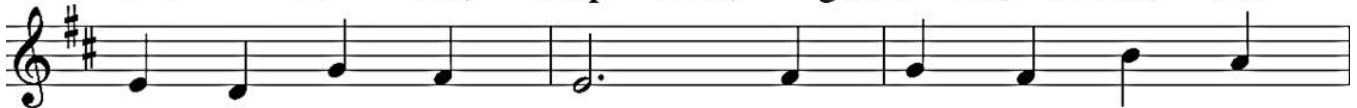
The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as “Ordinary Time” and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which 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: How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds

Please stand as you are able



1. How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds To
2. It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3. Blest Name! The rock on which we build, Our
4. O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, Our



all be - liev - ing ears! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart dis - tressed: 'Tis man - na for the
shield and rest - ing place, Our nev - er - fail - ing
proph - et, priest, and king, Our Lord, our life, our



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fears.
hun - gry soul, And for the wea - ry, rest.
store - house, filled With count - less gifts of grace!
way, our end, Ac - cept the praise we bring.

ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

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

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

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 44:6-8

Please be seated

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86:11-17

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

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

¹³For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

- ¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life;*
they have not set you before their eyes.
- ¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,*
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy upon me;*
**give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**
- ¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;*
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has

been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: Mixed Like Weeds In Wheatfields

Please stand as you are able



1. Mixed like weeds in wheat-fields, What fears and greed we learn
2. Then a wan-d'ring teach-er Ar-rives from Gal-i-lee
3. World-ly pow'r, un-daunt-ed, Con-tin-ues to ap-plaud
4. Faith that roots in seed-time, En-dures the doubts of growth,



Min-gled with the wis-dom Of pru-dence and con-cern:
 Sow-ing words that pierce us Yet some-how set us free:
 Self-ish-ness, op-pres-sion, Re-venge, in-jus-tice, fraud.
 Blossoms when en-cour-aged, Bears pain and pleas-ure both:



"Hoard the bet-ter vin-tage And serve a cheap-er wine";
 "Be not cruel or venge-ful, But turn the oth-er cheek";
 Though such e-vils flour-ish And grounds for hope de-crease,
 Find in us, great Sow-er, A fruit-ful plant-ing place,



"Pearls that go un-hid-den Get tram-pled by the swine."
 "God will bless the hum-ble, The mer-ci-ful, the meek."
 Deep and well are plant-ed God's seeds of love and peace.
 Yield-ing in time's full-ness The har-vest of your grace.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

Please be seated

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:

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially
Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, Sudan, Congo, and
Venezuela;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and
oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and
the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the
Truth.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Bonnie our diocesan Bishop,
and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of our Grace family, and
for those on our prayer list. Are there others you would like to
add?

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

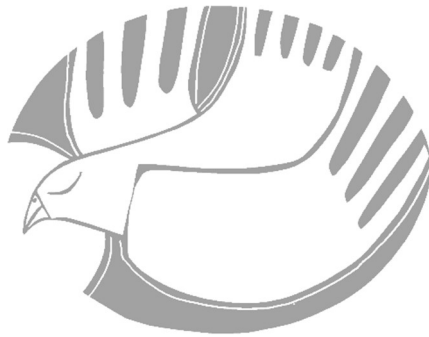
We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your
compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your**

Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through 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

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 the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth.

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Savior.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Holy and gracious God: 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 our 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, Jesus 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 God, 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 our Christ. For it is by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

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 *BCP p. 366*

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**



CLOSING HYMN: Lord Of All Hopefulness



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



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



1. there at— our— wak - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 2. *there at— our— la - bors, and give us, we pray, Your*
 3. there at— our— hom - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 4. there at— our— sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, Your



1. bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 2. *strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*
 3. love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 4. peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our worship has now ended; 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 our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; 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; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gherisi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Betty Gillis; David Schihl; Martha Houser; Stacy Wagenknecht; Matthew Smith; Robert Tuten; the Stotz family; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen.

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!

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!

COOKIES NEEDED

Calling all bakers! We need cookies for Pride this year: any variety without nuts, peanut butter, or frosting (or any allergen-free unfrosted baked good) that can fit into a sandwich-size Ziploc bag. Please bring them to the church any time before **6 PM** on **Friday, August 7**. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet at Grace on **Thursday, September 10** at **6 PM** to discuss *The Shadow Box* by Luanne Rice. Reviews of this book describe it as a thriller mystery with multiple and seamless twists and turns. If you have any questions, please call Ann Strevel. Looking forward to seeing you!

For Justice Beyond Vengeance

God of justice, whose **mercy** provides the foundation for our righteousness, **we pray** that this nation may be a beacon of humble and **wise justice**. Fifty years after the reinstatement of the **death penalty** in the United States, we ask that you **give us the grace to turn away from vengeance** without turning away from the cries of every victim of violence and their families. **Send your Holy Spirit** and surround them with communities of loving care. **Look also with mercy**, O Lord, upon all who are on death row, especially those who were **wrongly convicted**. Where human error has brought an unjust sentence, **we pray** that you bring the **truth** to light before an execution makes injustice irreversible. **Guide** all judges, juries, lawmakers, corrections officers, and chaplains that they may **uphold the dignity** of the souls in their charge. Grant all these things through Christ, our judge and our redeemer. Amen.