

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

August 2, 2026 – The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 Bulletin

REV. DR. PHILIP HEMKE

PR Hemke was senior pastor at Beautiful Savior in Bloomfield Hills (1989-2008). He has also served as mission developer at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Niagara Falls, Canada (1970-75) and as senior pastor at Lutheran Church of the Atonement in St. Louis, Missouri (1975-89). PR Hemke was the first Director of Church Relations for Samaritas (Lutheran Social Services of Michigan), 2008-17. He has served as an interim in five congregations and earned a doctorate in Christian Stewardship. PR Hemke is married to Joan, who taught first grade and was director of the Early Learning Center at BSLC. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Pastor Hemke enjoys walking (seven miles a day), golf, reading, cooking, and time with Joan and his family.

OPENING HYMN: We Will Extol You, Ever-Blessed Lord

Please stand as you are able



1 We will ex - tol you, ev - er - bless - ed Lord; your ho - ly
2 Age shall to age pass on the end - less song, tell - ing the
3 You, Lord, are gra - cious, mer - ci - ful to all, close to your

Name for ev - er be a - dored; each day we live our
won - ders which to you be - long, your might - y acts with
chil - dren when on you they call; and slow to an - ger,

psalm to you we raise; you, God and King, are wor - thy of all
joy and fear re - late; praise we your glo - ry while on you we
mer - ci - ful and kind, in your com - pas - sion we your bless - ings

praise, great and un - search - a - ble in all your ways.
wait, glad in the know - ledge of your love so great.
find. We love you with our heart and strength and mind.

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

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-5

Please be seated

Thus says the Lord:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9, 15-22

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

⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,*
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹The Lord is loving to everyone*
and his compassion is over all his works.

- ¹⁵The Lord upholds all those who fall;*
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
- ¹⁶The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,*
and you give them their food in due season.
- ¹⁷You open wide your hand*
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
- ¹⁸The Lord is righteous in all his ways*
and loving in all his works.
- ¹⁹The Lord is near to those who call upon him,*
to all who call upon him faithfully.
- ²⁰He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;*
he hears their cry and helps them.
- ²¹The Lord preserves all those who love him,*
but he destroys all the wicked.
- ²²My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;*
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

SECOND READING Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: Whoever You Are, Your Prayer Is Welcome

Please stand as you are able



1. Who - ev - er you are, your prayer is
2. What - ev - er you bring, your prayer is

wel - come: come pil - grim, come seek - er, come
wel - come: your glad - ness, your sor - row, your

out - cast, come guest. You can o - pen your heart,
doubt, and your fears. You can o - pen your heart,

for God's heart is o - pen, and
for God's heart is o - pen, and

God is our shel - ter, our ref - uge and rest.
God will be with us through laugh - ter and tears.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and

the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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:

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;

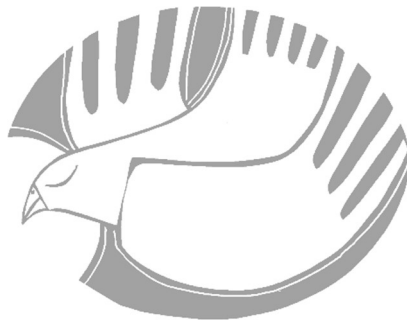
Who put their trust in you.

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: Go! (Leon Patillo)



1. Go ye there-fore and teach all na-tions, go,
2. If you love me, real-ly love me, feed
go, my sheep. Go ye there-fore and teach all
If you love me, real-ly
na-tions, go, go, my go. sheep. And
Bap-tiz-ing them in the name of the Fa-ther and
lo, I'll be with you for ev-er and ev-er un-
Son and Ho-ly Ghost. Go,
til the ends of the world, go,
go, go. go.

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; Julie E. Schneider-Thomas, 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 Gheresi; 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; Leslie Sasges; Louise Lambert.

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 this 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 a Creation Consumed by Fire

God of creation, who **entrusted the Earth** to our faithful care, **we grieve** that the recent wildfires in Canada are but **one sign of a creation burdened by changing climate** and the consequences of human choices. We pray for all who suffer from extreme heat, drought, storms, rising seas, fire, and the loss of homes, livelihoods, and habitats. **Strengthen those who protect lives** and restore the land, and **grant wisdom and courage** to leaders, communities, and each of us to pursue the changes needed to safeguard your creation. **Where we have failed** in our stewardship, we pray, O Lord, that you would **help us amend our ways**, repair what we have damaged, and under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, **work with you** for the healing of the Earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.