



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost *September 13, 2026*

Before the Service — Speak quietly to God
During the Service — Let God speak to you
After the Service — Speak to one another

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!

TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

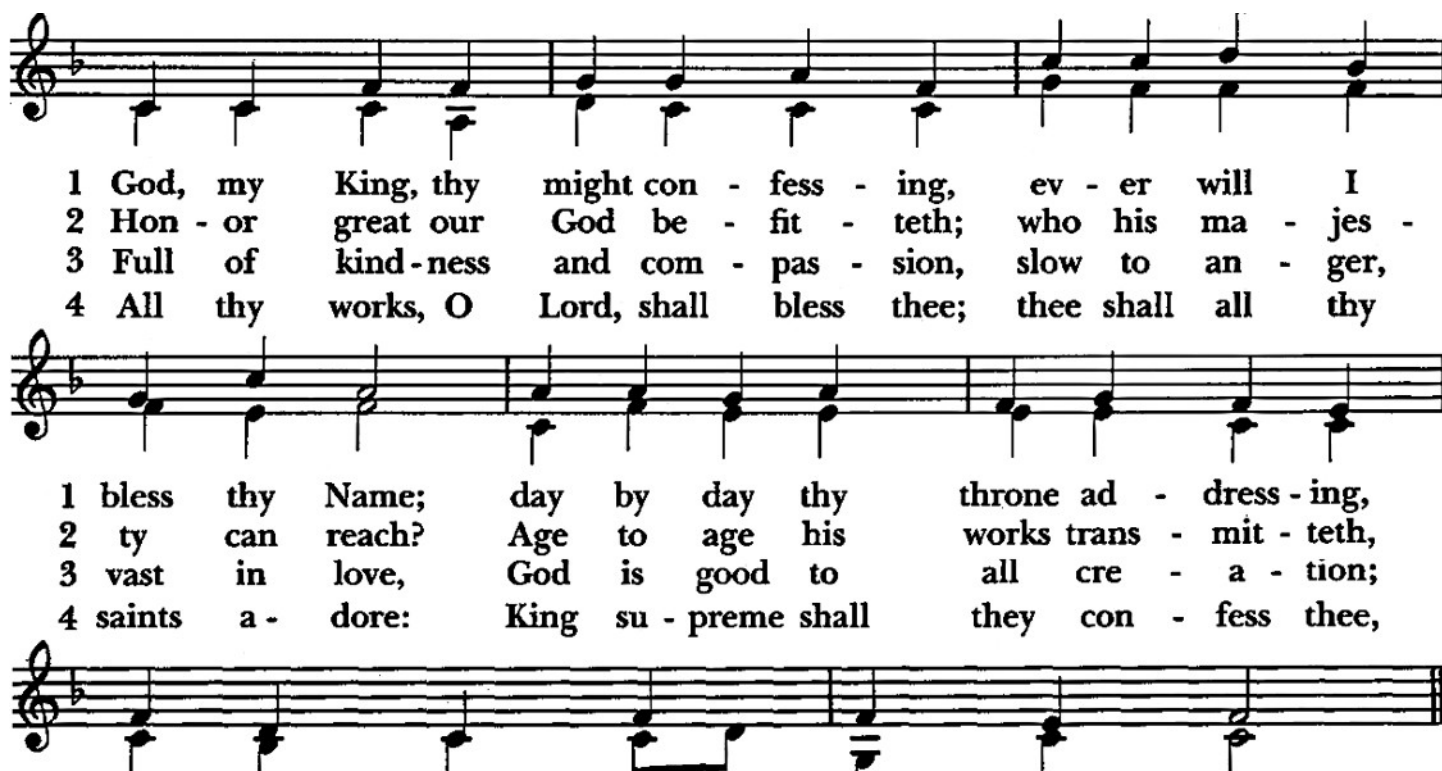
To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799
8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068
Field Education Student: A.J. Hawks
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
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Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

OPENING HYMN: God, My King, Thy Might Confessing

Please stand as you are able



1 God, my King, thy might con - fess - ing, ev - er will I
2 Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who his ma - jes -
3 Full of kind - ness and com - pas - sion, slow to an - ger,
4 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy

1 bless thy Name; day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing,
2 ty can reach? Age to age his works trans - mit - teth,
3 vast in love, God is good to all cre - a - tion;
4 saints a - dore: King su - preme shall they con - fess thee,

1 still will I thy praise pro - claim.
2 age to age his power shall teach.
3 all his works his good - ness prove.
4 and pro - claim thy sov - ereign power.

ACCLAMATION

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



Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God, and peace to his peo-ple, his peo-ple on earth.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Readers: **Gay Gillespie & Lucia Smith***

*Next Week's Readers: **Scot Lau & Lydia Reed***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

RESPONSE Psalm 103:1-13 – *Benedic, anima mea*

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things,*
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The Lord executes righteousness*
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made his ways known to Moses*
and his works to the children of Israel.

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

⁹He will not always accuse us,*
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,*
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,*
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: Walk Together, Children

Please stand as you are able

Walk to - geth - er, chil - dren, don't you get wea - ry.

Pray to - geth - er, chil - dren, don't you get wea - ry.

Sing to - geth - er, chil - dren, don't you get wea - ry. We will

Work for jus - tice in this great land.

We will walk and nev - er tire. We will pray and nev - er tire.

We will sing and nev - er tire. We will

work for jus - tice in this great land.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I

will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Please be seated

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able

*This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words "I give my heart,"
a truer translation of the Latin word "credo" than "I believe."*

I give my heart to God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I give my heart to 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, and 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 give my heart to the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Holy and gracious God, you created us in your image. Help us to recognize and honor your image in ourselves and in one another, especially those whom we are at odds with. God our Creator,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Holy and life-giving God, look with compassion on all those in this world suffering from violence and broken relationships. We especially pray for women and children living in poverty and those living in fear of abuse. God of Hope,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Holy and faithful God, hear our prayers for all your people who are silent because of oppression, and for those who feel that their voices are not heard. God who speaks,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Holy and magnificent God, you have filled the earth with beauty and diversity. Look graciously upon all of us with our varied gifts, characteristics, and qualities, and give us all a respect for the dignity of others that we may treat all people with love and care. God of Grace,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader All-knowing God, you see the pain of your people who suffer and fear because of war, especially those in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan; may you comfort them and keep them safe. Open the eyes of all those who advocate for and promote war that they may see their atrocities and pursue peaceful resolutions. God of Peace,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for the blessings and wisdom we have received from those who have died. Receive them into eternal life and comfort those who mourn. God of Abundant Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Healing God, we pray for all those who have asked for our prayers, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

May you bless, comfort, and heal those who are struggling with physical, emotional, social, and relational pain, especially those affected by the ongoing Ebola outbreak and disasters both natural and human-made. God of Healing,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Nurturing God, 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. God of Caring,

People **Hear our prayer.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Celebrant:

In the name of the true and living Holy One, who made us for love, who saved us by love, and who loves us still. **AMEN.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

*Join us as we celebrate hard-working parishioner **Donna Chapman** and her 50 years of devoted service to the Altar Guild upon her retirement from this vital ministry.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

OFFERTORY HYMN: Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



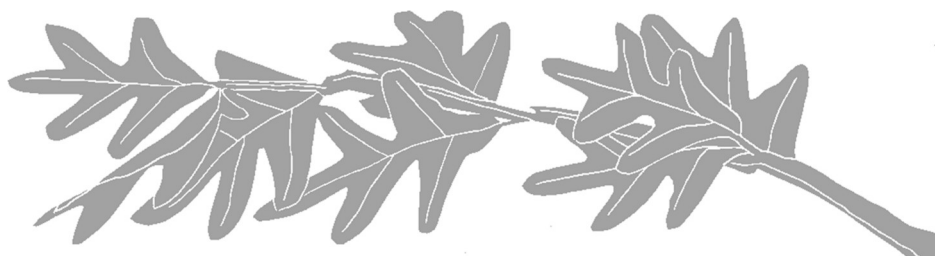
1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," you
2. How can your par - don reach and bless the
3. In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and



taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, how great our debt to you!
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.



DOXOLOGY

Please stand as you are able



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your Word and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion, you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the Law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice and mercy. In our unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you as we sing:

SANCTUS

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant continues:

Lord, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendor and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ, who suffered for the salvation of the world, you reveal the glory and power of your love.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Embracing our humanity, he taught us the way of salvation. Loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us. Dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

On the night you gave up your Son for us all, he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit, let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!

Look with favor on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, free the oppressed, and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen. Alleluia!



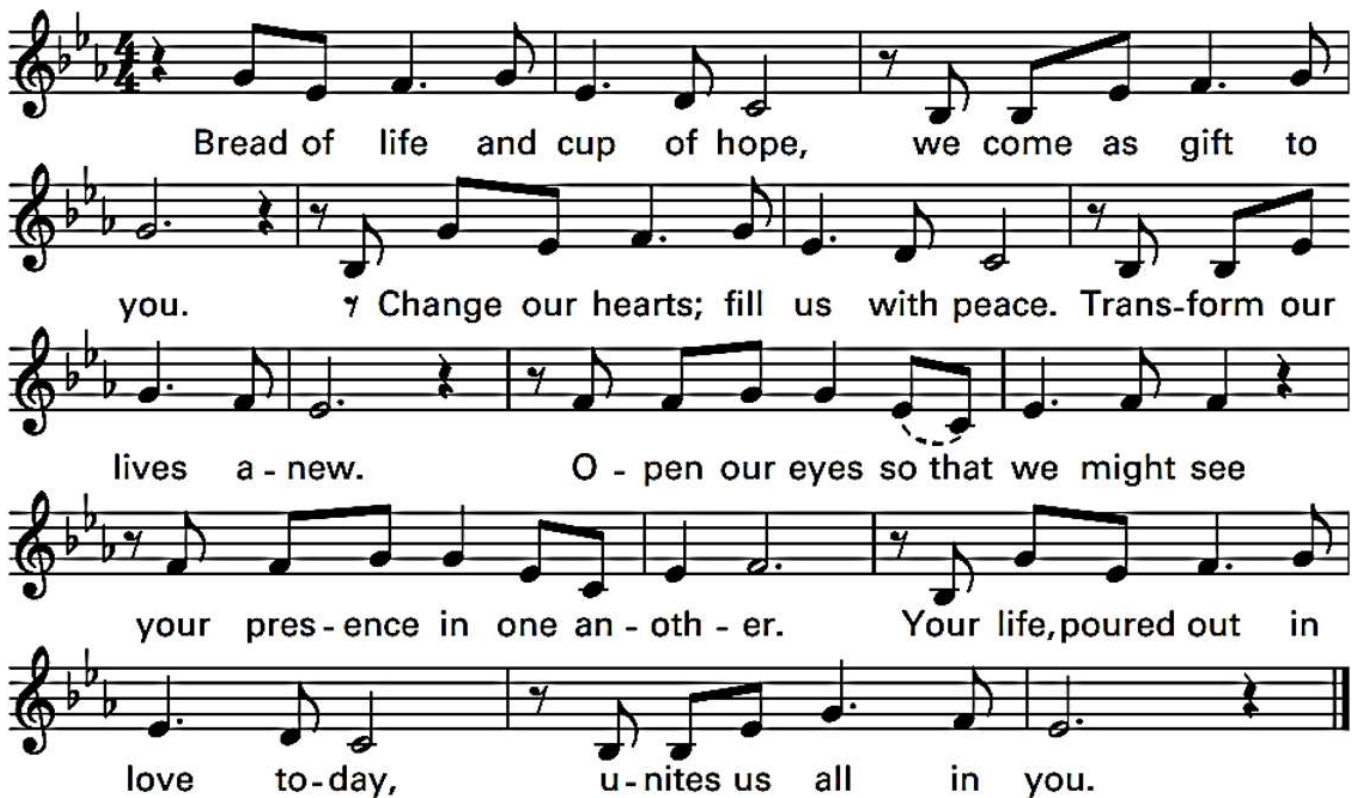
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy is 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.

FRACTION



Bread of life and cup of hope, we come as gift to
you. Change our hearts; fill us with peace. Transform our
lives a - new. O - pen our eyes so that we might see
your pres - ence in one an - oth - er. Your life, poured out in
love to - day, u - nites us all in you.

Celebrant Taste and see that our God is good; come to the banquet table with joy and 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.

COMMUNION HYMN: Bless The Lord

1. Bless the Lord, all who serve
2. And may the God who made
3. From the mountains high to the

1. in God's house, who stand
2. earth and sky send you joy and
3. depths of the sea may you praise God's

1. watch through-out the night.
2. peace from a-bove.
3. name for-ev-er-more.

1. Lift up your hands in this
2. Lift up your hearts in the
3. Lift up your voice and

1. ho-ly of place
2. house of God
3. sing God's praise } and bless God's

1-3. name, bless the Lord.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant Let us pray together our post-Communion prayer.

Celebrant and People say together:

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

May God lead you in marvelous ways and stir your inmost being to be light and love to those around you, and may the blessing of God—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be upon you this day and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: We Thank You, God, For Human Love



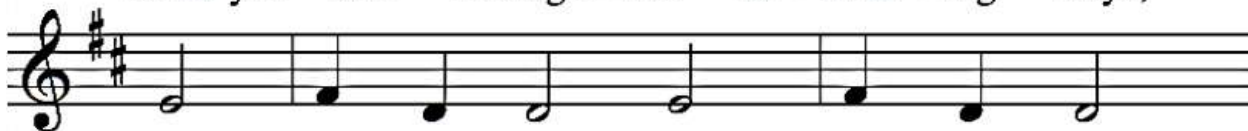
1. We thank you, God, for hu - man love That
2. No gift a - dorned the pass - ing years That
3. We praise you for the prov - i - dence That
4. To Fa - ther, Son and Spir - it, One, Our



you, by love, sus - tain; For faith - ful - ness that
was not yours to share; No bur - den fell so
all our years has spanned And for the hope that,
grate - ful hymn we raise, And ask for strength to



forg - es strength Through days of joy or pain;
heav - i - ly, But you have helped us bear;
with our need, Your mer - cies will ex - pand;
serve you still Through - out re - main - ing days,



For grace to give, re - ceive, for - give,
No way, how - ev - er hid - den, Lord,
And so with trust - ing hearts we yield
That what you give may be re - turned



And glad - ly give a - gain.
Has led be - yond your care.
New years in - to your hand.
In lives that sing your praise.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our time of worship has now ended. Go in peace to love God and to love your neighbor! 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 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; Matthew Smith; Robert Tuten; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen; Leslie Sasges; Louise Lambert; Norris Satterly; the Wagenknecht family; Dan Kotesky; Judy Kuase; Brian Negran; Sue Culver.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

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

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information.
Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM-12 noon, curbside pickup
Serving from 250-500 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 11 AM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4
35088 Automation Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035
Packing for the 2026-27 school year begins October 6

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

***Call the office to learn about helping or giving:
586-465-4573***

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!

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN AND SING!

Join us as choir rehearsals resume **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary, starting this week on **September 16**. Faces and voices both new and familiar are most welcome as we lift up our praises in song and help guide our Grace community into the seasons of thankfulness, Advent, and the birth of our Lord!

FUELING KIDS' FUTURES

As we begin a new school year, we are preparing to resume our food packing for Mount Clemens Community School District; see the Ministries info box above for more details. Thank you for your continued support for our program through packing and "F" & "K" dollar donations. We received over \$1,400 from your combined efforts last year!

For Those Facing Return to Danger

God of **refuge**, who heard the cry of your people in exile, **we pray for** Haitians **facing return** to a country still afflicted by **armed violence**, displacement, hunger, and insecurity. **We lift before you** all those who have lost Temporary Protected Status in the United States and now **risk deportation** amid continuing violence and instability. **We lament** when protections end while **grave dangers** remain, and when parents must choose between taking their children into harm's way or leaving them behind in another's care. **Guard** those who are returned without resources or a safe place to go. **Strengthen** the people of Haiti and **all who labor for peace**, security, and just government. **Give wisdom** and **compassion** to those entrusted with decisions about refuge and return, **that no one would be sent knowingly into danger**. Through Jesus Christ, who was himself carried to safety from violence. Amen.
