



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*September 27, 2026 – **LARGE-PRINT EDITION***

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
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music

115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043

Office 586-465-4573

Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web at

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

OPENING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Please stand as you are able

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will

one walk in the Lord, We are one walk in the
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -

pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our

stored:
land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our

love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are

Chris - tians by our love.

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



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Readers: **Ann & Dave Farrell***

*Next Week's Readers: **Neville Thompson & Selia Tuten***



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Reader A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE Psalm 25:1-8 – *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;*

**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

²Let none who look to you be put to shame;*

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O Lord, *

and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

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

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to

the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL HYMN: Because Of Jesus

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness

and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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.**

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

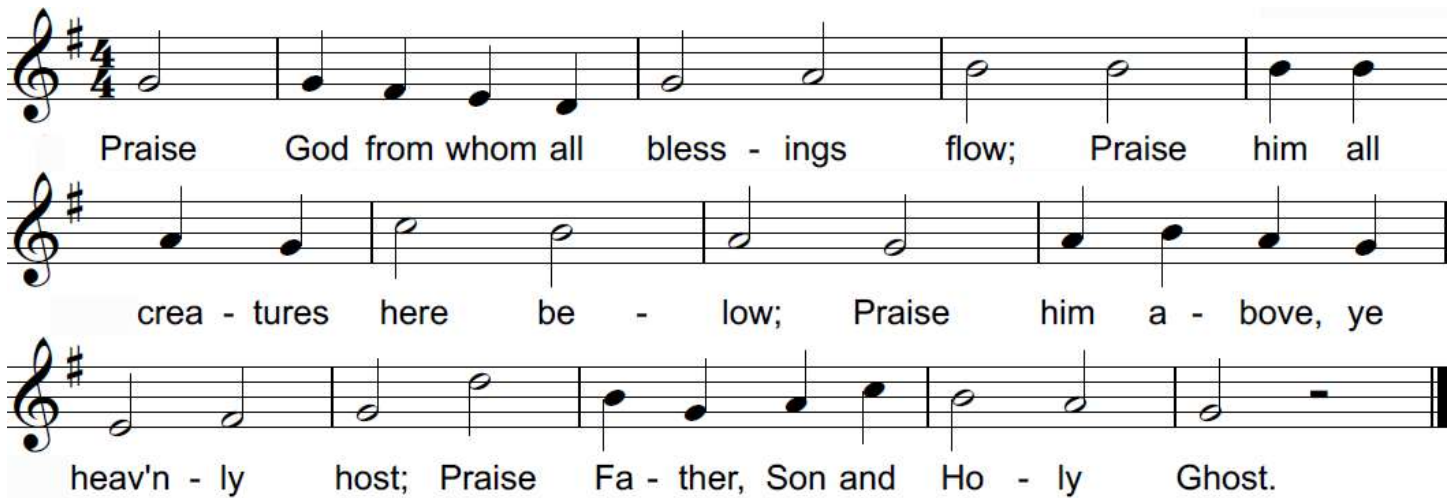
OFFERTORY HYMN: To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under rests. There are three measures of music on the first staff, two on the second, three on the third, and four on the fourth. The lyrics are as follows:

To you, O God, I lift up my soul; lift up my spir-it
to my Lord. To you I lift up my soul.
1. Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your
2. Good and up-right our gra-cious God, show-ing the
1. paths, guide me. ‡ You are my Sav-ior.
2. way, guid-ing the hum-ble to jus-tice.

DOXOLOGY

Please stand as you are able



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 the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are the
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!

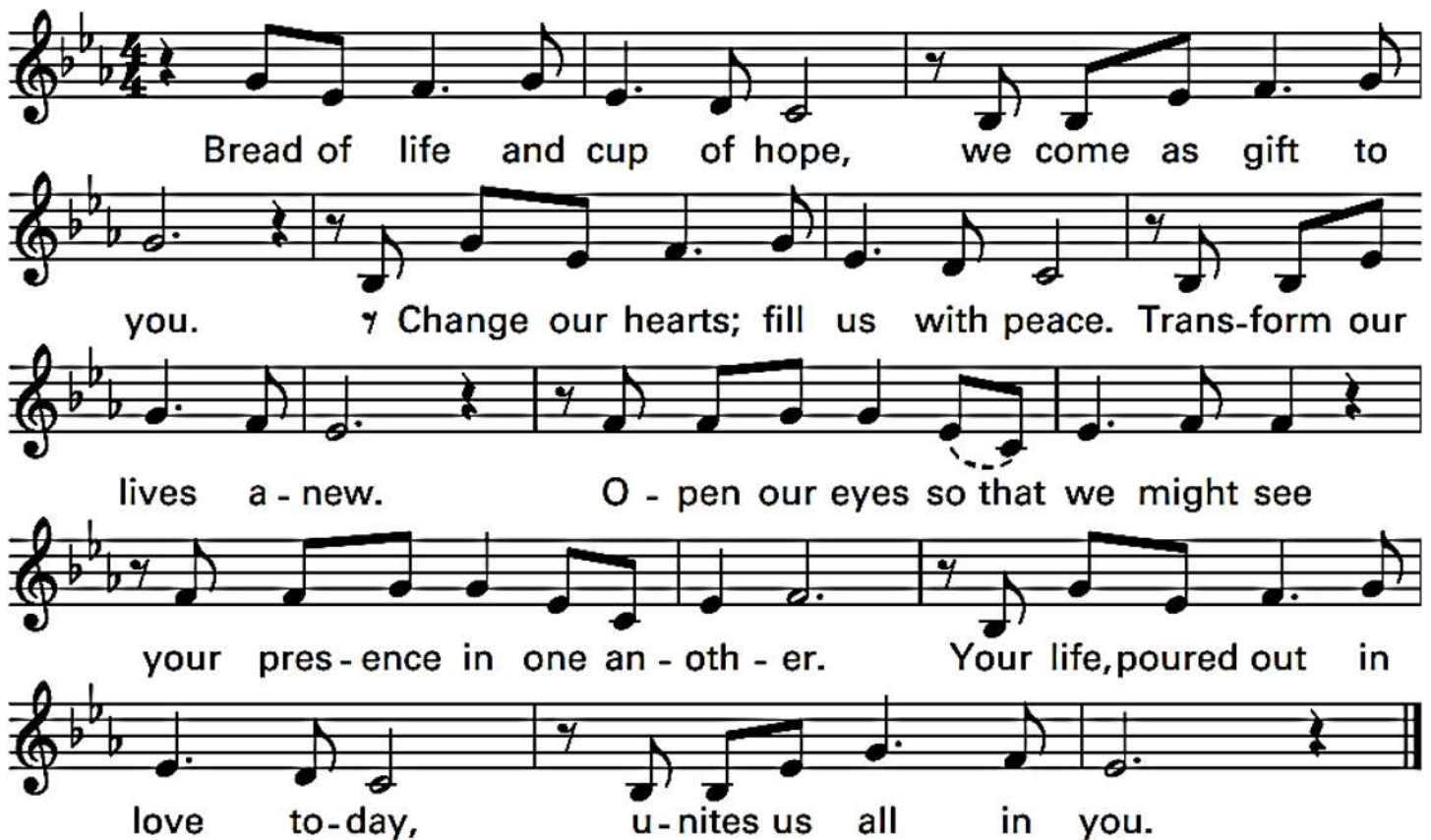
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 7 Change our hearts; fill us with peace. Trans-form 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: I Come To You



1. I come to you, the lost and scat-tered;
2. I come to you, the dis-re-gard-ed;
3. I come to you, the false and fail-ing;



I come to you, the smug and strong;
I come to you, the scarred and shamed;
I come to you, the wild and worn;



I come to you, the souls un-gath-ered;
I come to you, the bro-ken-heart-ed;
I come to you, the wronged and rail-ing;



now come to me, learn you be-long.
now come to me, and be re-claimed.
now come to me, and be re-born.



Leave all you've done, I am for-giv-ing;



leave all you've known to come and see;



leave all you've owned, you're just be-gin-ning;



leave all you've been and fol-low me.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant Let us pray together our post-Communion prayer.

Celebrant and People say together:

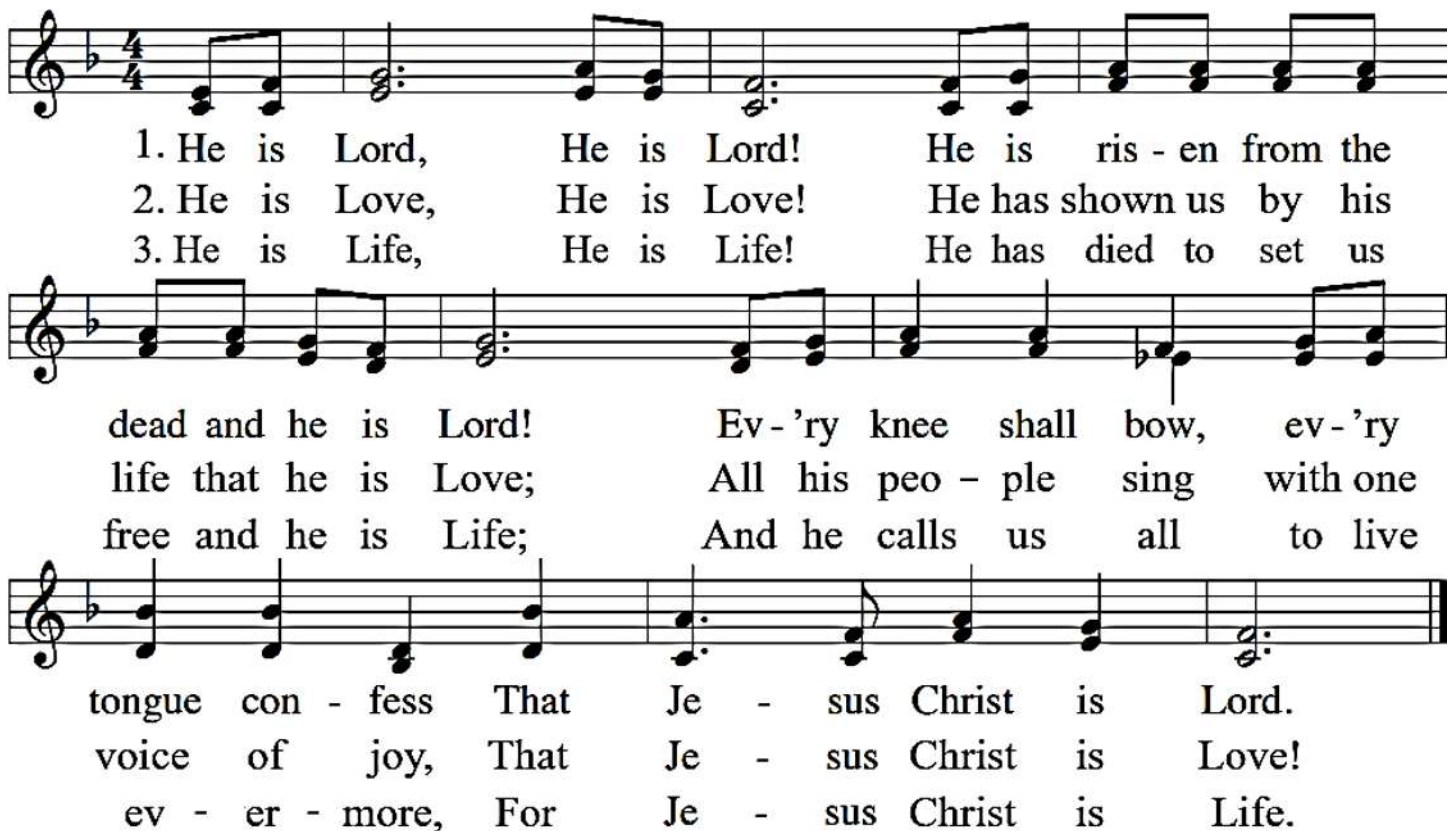
Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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: He Is Lord!



1. He is Lord, He is Lord! He is ris - en from the
2. He is Love, He is Love! He has shown us by his
3. He is Life, He is Life! He has died to set us

dead and he is Lord! Ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev - 'ry
life that he is Love; All his peo - ple sing with one
free and he is Life; And he calls us all to live

tongue con - fess That Je - sus Christ is Lord.
voice of joy, That Je - sus Christ is Love!
ev - er - more, For Je - sus Christ is Life.

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 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; 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; Takashi Nawafune; Mary Lang; Sue Sargent.

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***

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open from **9 AM** to **12 PM** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

COMBINED SERVICE / BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pets (or photos of your pets) to church **next Sunday, October 4** for one combined service at **10 AM** as our friends from American Lutheran Church join us in celebrating the feast day of Francis of Assisi with our annual Blessing of the Animals. Stay for coffee hour, too, and speak with the visiting animal rescue group; donations of dog or cat food, treats, or toys would be greatly appreciated!

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 at choir rehearsal **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. 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!

BOWL FOR HOPE

Enjoy an evening of bowling, food, and fun while supporting the Macomb County Winter Shelter. Meet at Imperial Lanes on Garfield from **2 to 5 PM** on **Sunday, October 11**. **\$40** per bowler includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and beverages. See Kirsten Blackburn to sign up or learn more.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at Grace on **Thursday, November 12** at **6 PM**, and we'll be discussing John Grisham's *The Widow*. We would love for you to attend! Just read the book, come to the meeting, and be prepared for a lively discussion in a comfortable setting. Call or see Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

For Peace and Reconciliation in Myanmar

God of hope, whose Son Jesus Christ **broke down the walls** that divide us, **sow seeds of peace in Myanmar** and give its people strength to tend them toward justice and reconciliation. Where suffering is too often unseen, **open our eyes** and do not let us look away. Where brothers and sisters meet across battle lines amid long-standing differences of ethnicity, autonomy, and political division, **open paths toward dialogue and unity**. Where rare earths, jade, and other resources enrich armed actors, **break the bonds between riches and the financing of war** and help the people of Myanmar to turn that wealth toward the flourishing of its people. **Give wisdom and courage** to governments and industries abroad whose choices shape these supply chains, **that profit may never outweigh human life**. Raise up peacemakers; protect those who labor for just peace; and **lead Myanmar** toward freedom and unity. Amen.
