

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October 4, 2026 – The Nineteenth 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: He's Got The Whole World In His Hand

Please stand as you are able

He's got the whole world in His hand,
He's got the whole wide world in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.

1. He's got the sun and the moon in His hand,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hand,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.

2. He's got the plants and the creatures in His hand,
He's got the plants and the creatures in His hand,
He's got the plants and the creatures in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.

3. He's got everybody here in His hand,
He's got everybody here in His hand,
He's got everybody here in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.



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.**

BLESSING OF THE PETS



Moment of Remembrance

Celebrant says:

O Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We pray for their owners who continue to mourn their loss. But most of all, we give thanks for their memory and for the ways in which they enriched our lives. **AMEN.**

Individual Pet Blessings

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

Please be seated

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 80:7-14

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

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;*
you cast out the nations and planted it.

⁹You prepared the ground for it;*
it took root and filled the land.

- ¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow*
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea*
and its branches to the River.
- ¹²Why have you broken down its wall,*
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- ¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,*
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine;*
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it

my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: The Kingdom Of God *Please stand as you are able*

1. The king - dom of God is jus - tice and joy;
2. The king - dom of God is mer - cy and grace;
3. God's king - dom is come, the gift and the goal;

For Je - sus re - stores what sin would de - stroy.
The cap - tives are freed, the sin - ners find place,
In Je - sus be - gun, in heav - en made whole.

God's pow - er and glo - ry in Je - sus we know;
The out - cast are wel - comed God's ban - quet to share;
The heirs of the king - dom shall an - swer his call;

And here and here - af - ter the king - dom shall grow.
And hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.
And all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God all in all.



GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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, and Congo;

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

For the just and proper use of your creation, and for those suffering from natural disasters;

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: The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call my name. Let me turn and

you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your

let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

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; 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.

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, Thursday, and Friday.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are given by Karen Davenport in memory of her father Frank, for his 101st birthday. 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 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!

FUELING KIDS' FUTURES

As we begin a new school year, we are resuming our food packing for Mount Clemens Community School District **this Tuesday, October 6** at **11 AM** at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4 located at 35088 Automation Drive in Clinton Township. 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!

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** next **Sunday, October 11**. **\$40** per bowler includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and beverages. Sign up on the sheet in the hallway, or see Kirsten Blackburn to 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.