

Hope Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director
Joyce Dubach, Organist
July 26.2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Food pantry need: cereal and soup
Attendance for July . 2026 –
PRELUDE

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

GATHERING SONG

(ELW 533)

. **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

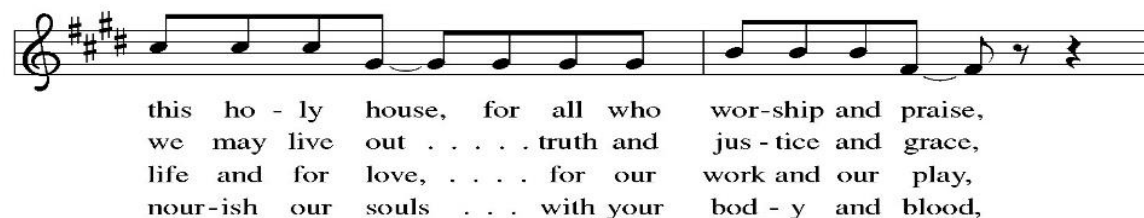
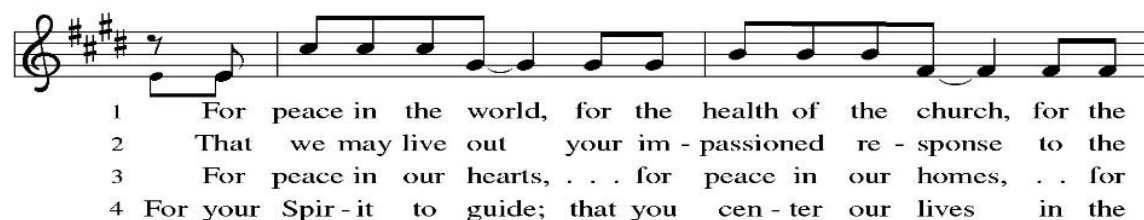
GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with [|] all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened [|] it gives light;
it gives understanding [|] to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my [|] mouth and pant
because I long for [|] your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who [|] love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps [|] in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion [|] over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those [|] who oppress me,
and I will keep [|] your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach [|] me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed [|] streams of tears,
because people do not [|] keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

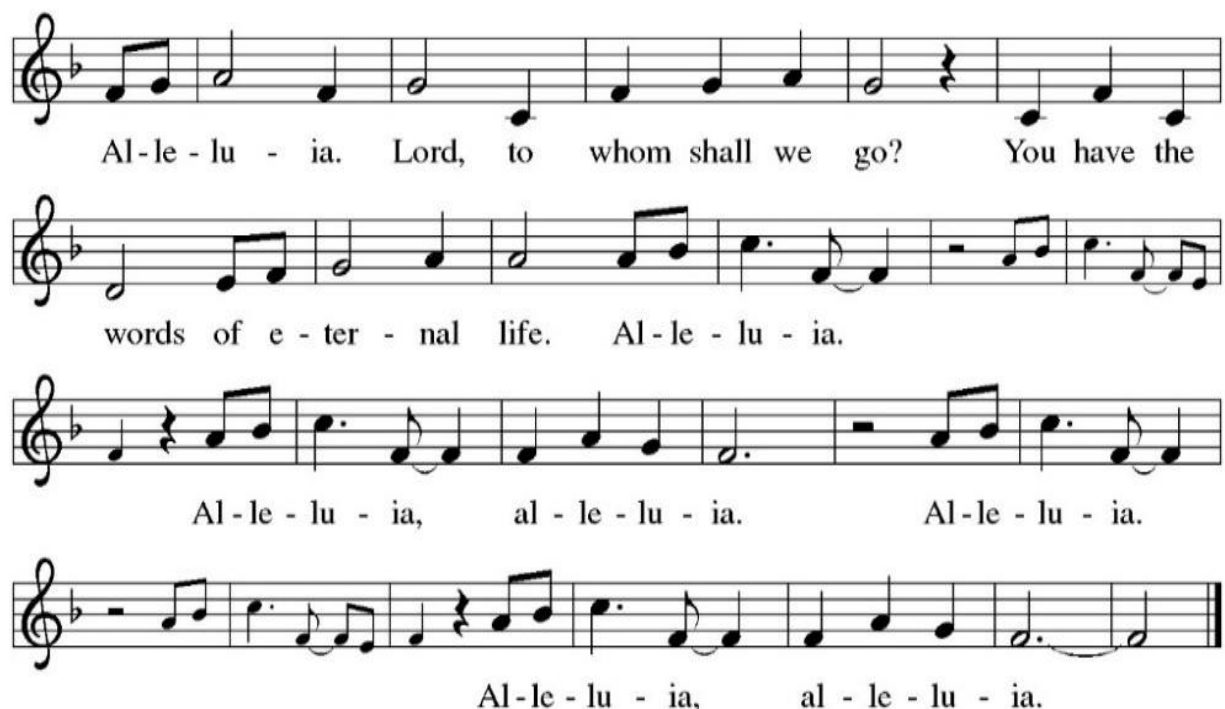
“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW 793)

. **Be Thou My Vision**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931 Music: Irish traditional

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks.
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

Meal *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering Hymn Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
From age to age your creation sings your praises.
You feed even the birds of the air,
and you clothe the fields with lilies.

You gave your blessing to Abraham and his descendants,
and you spoke with Moses, Elijah, and David.
Blessed are you, Lord our God:
Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You fulfilled your covenant with us in Jesus.
He is Emmanuel, your beloved Son,
the star that guides us to wisdom,
the treasure hidden in a field.

He is the landowner who overpays the workers,
the judge who separates good from evil.
Blessed are you, Lord our God.
For us he lived, for us he died, for us he rose to eternal life.
Then and now he invites us to your banquet.

On the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We hear his call, we repent our ways,
and we enter with joy into the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you, Lord our God.

Send your Holy Spirit here on your gathered disciples.
Make of this meal the body and blood of forgiveness.
Heal us and grant us your righteousness,

that we may love you and serve our neighbors.

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
our Father in heaven,
the Rock on which we build,
the Dove alighting on us all.
We worship you and sing our praises,
today and to the end of the age.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION

(Everyone is welcome to come to the communion table. If you have not received instruction in the Sacraments, come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like to receive communion where you are seated in the pews, please tell the usher and at the close of communion you will be served.)

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond **Amen.**

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Song during Communion

(ELW 518)

. We Eat the Bread of Teaching

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you

today and always.

Amen

SENDING SONG *Every Time I Feel the Spirit (ACS 942)*

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

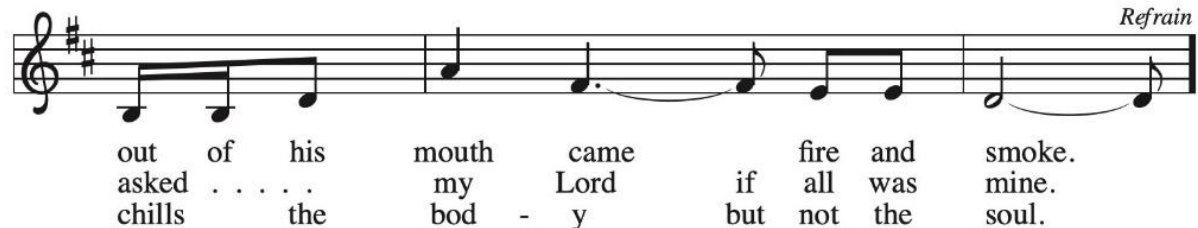
Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

BREAD LOAF OFFERING - JULY- Babe

- The Grace and Hope Lutheran Church garage sale will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on August 6, 7, and 8th (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). We will begin accepting donations the week beginning July 26th. Normally someone is working at Grace during the day and you can gain entrance to fellowship hall by ringing the doorbell. However, if you need assistance, please call Linda Grawcock, 260-609-5037 for help. We will not accept adult clothing, but children's clothing is always needed. Shoes that are clean and in good condition are good sellers. As always, we appreciate items that are clean and not broken. The members of our two churches have always been generous with their donations and time volunteered for this fundraiser. Let your family and friends know about this project for any donations they might have, and, of course, the invitation to come shopping! Adelphi ladies will answer any questions you might have. Thank you in advance for your help in making this sale a success.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Grace Lutheran Church
204 N Main street, Columbia City, IN
August 30th.2026
10 AM



**Come get your bookbags blessed, and
enjoy refreshments after service.
Everyone is invited - Teachers, aids,
bus drivers, principals, lunch helpers**



Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church

Monday, July 27, 2026

Helping hands 12:30 pm
Scout Troop 84 B/G 6:30 pm
AA 7:30 pm

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

T.O.P.S 9:30 am
WC quilters 4:30 pm

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Men's Breakfast 8 am
Food Pantry 12 pm
Voucher 4 pm

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Life Line Screening 8 am
AA 7:30 pm
Al-non 7:30 pm

Friday, July 31, 2026

Pastor's Day Off

Food pantry 12 pm

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am
Worship @ Grace 10 am
Fellowship @ 11:15 am
BP checks 11:15 am

We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would like to stay.