

Grace Lutheran Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

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

~ Matthew 13:44



Service of Holy Communion – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

(*) *the assembly may stand*

Congregation speaks responses in bold

PRESERVICE

WELCOME (*Presiding Minister*)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*Presiding Minister*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN ELW 769**

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

***GREETING** (*Presiding Minister*)

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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 167**

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Presiding Minister*)

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.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

The psalm is spoken responsively.

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.**

EPISTLE 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.**

FAMILY MESSAGE

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

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; ⁴⁶on 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; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and 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." ⁵²And 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.**

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **ELW 533 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**
(V. 1,3,5)

CREED (*Assisting Minister*)

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us confess our faith...

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in 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; he 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, he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assisting Minister*)

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.

PRAYER REFRAIN

Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

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 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 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.

PRAYER REFRAIN

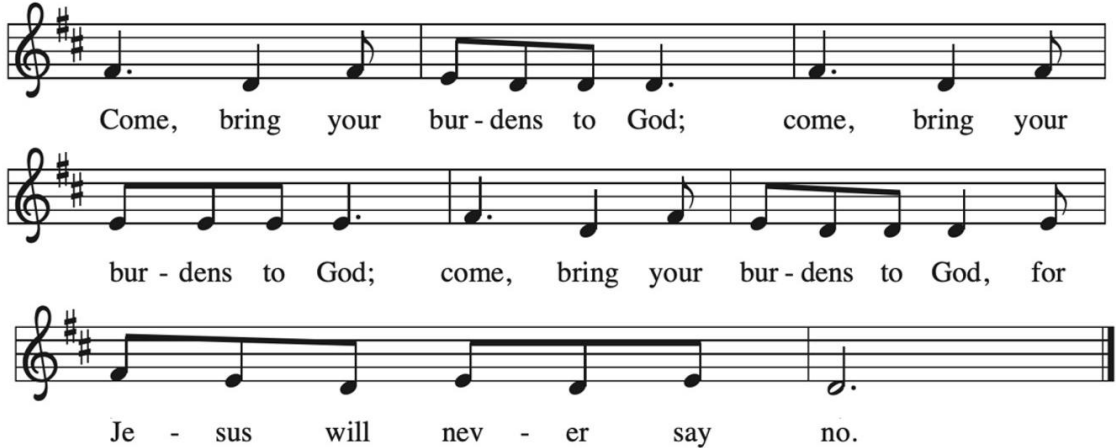
God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty.

God our peace and our guide, sustain all who work for justice, peace, and reconciliation. Comfort the families of those in the military who have lost their lives in the current conflict in the Middle East, surround all who grieve with your steadfast love, and help civic leaders hear the stories of all people with compassion and humility. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. We also pray for those we name aloud now or those we name silently in our hearts.

A brief moment of private petitions is observed.

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.

PRAYER REFRAIN



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 (*Presiding Minister*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING ANTHEM "Hello, Lord" by Kathy Sherman

Jenifer Mirin, vocal solo

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*Assisting Minister*)

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.**

***DIALOGUE** (*Presiding Minister*)

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** (*Presiding Minister*)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ELW #191 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (*Presiding Minister-spoken*)

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,

the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,

you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing,

his body given up, and his victory over death,

we await that day when all the peoples of the earth

will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,

so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,

that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,

both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** (*Assisting Minister*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

**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** (*Presiding Minister*)

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Congregation may be seated.

At Grace Lutheran, believing in Jesus Christ, we invite ALL to the sacrament of Holy Communion. Receive the host and then take one of the small cups. Wine is the outer rings and grape juice is the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available. Once communion is received, follow direction of ushers to return to pew leaving cups in bowls provided.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



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



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN WOV 783 "Seek Ye First"

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

**2. Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall
find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

**3. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.**

Allelu, alleluia.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING** *(Presiding Minister)*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(Assisting Minister)*

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.**

***BENEDICTION** *(Presiding Minister)*

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal,
and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN ACS 942 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"**

Refrain

**Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.**

**1. Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
 out of his mouth came fire and smoke.**

Refrain

**Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.**

2. All around me looked so fine,
asked my Lord if all was mine.

Refrain

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

3. Jordan river, chilly and cold,
chills the body but not the soul.

Refrain

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

***DISMISSAL** (*Assisting Minister*)

Heaven has come near.

Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Altar flowers are sponsored by The Tlachac's in memory of their parents & Mark's brother Tony and in memory of Sharon Sletkolen.

WORSHIP LEADERS – July 26, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Jennifer S. Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Brad Schmucker
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dave Davies
READER	Carolyn Treadway
HEAD USHER	Fred Borchers
USHERS	Bob Barry, Dave Davies, Juan Prat
ALTAR GUILD	Carole Priede, Angel Tilo
REFRESHMENTS	Bob & Pat Erickson, Paul & Christy Fosse
VIDEO/CAMERA	Michael Hamilton
SOUND	Barb Toepke
POWERPOINT	Rebecca Campos

*Connecting People to People, People to Christ,
and People to their role in the world*

The People of Grace, Ministers

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop of the Florida/Bahamas Synod

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael, Pastor	pastorjmmichael@gracelutherantampa.org
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NURSERY: Ruth Sawyers, Kahlie McCarty, Erin Dean

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS: Mickey Castor, Ruth Anderson, Karen Jankowski,
Janet Wise

Stephen Ministry Congregation



Rev. Jennifer S. Michael, Pastor - 813-599-2390

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