

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting X

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soloist

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Katherine Johnson, Lector

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude *"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"* arr. Carol Tornquist

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church

OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹ with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and ¹ have not faltered.

²**Test me, O ¹ LORD, and try me; examine my heart ¹ and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is be- ¹ fore my eyes; I have walked faithful- ¹ ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat ¹ with the worthless, nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers; I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD, that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Zach Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

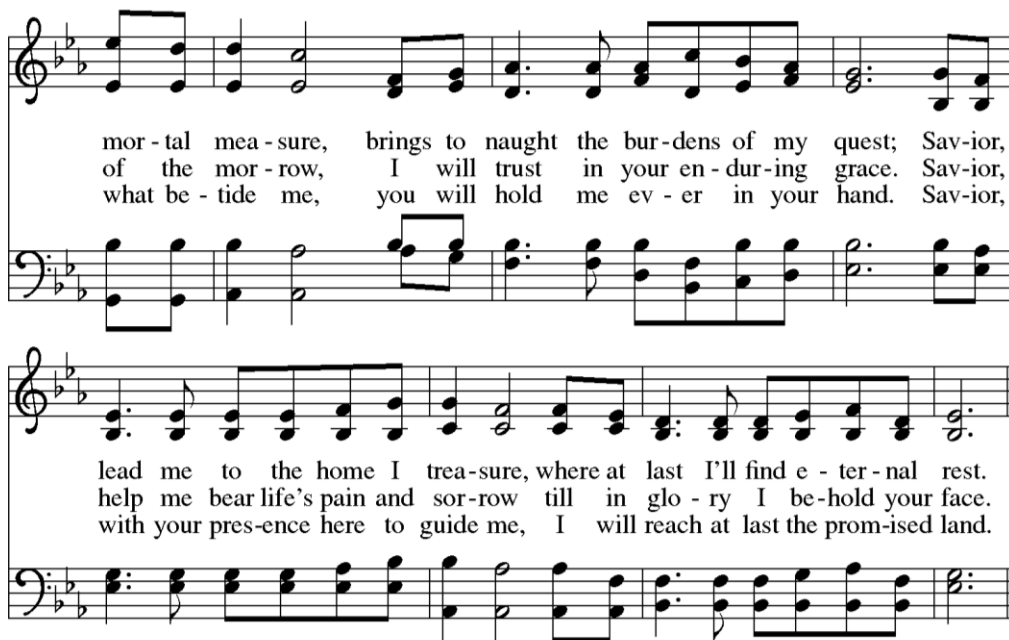
Day by Day

ELW 790

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

 lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

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, and 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

Each petition ends with "Let us pray". The assembly responds with "Have mercy, O God."

SHARING OF THE PEACE - *The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.*
 The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER - *All speak the prayer together.*

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **“The body of Christ given for you.”** Wine/grape juice: **“The blood of Christ shed for you.”***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep in his grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - *All speak the prayer together.*

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

ELW 774

- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Refrain*

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude*"How Great Is Our God"*

arr. Carol Tornquist

This week's altar flowers are given by Ken & Gretchen Sterling celebrating 25 years of the marriage of Marcus & Leslie Sterling DeLuco here at Hill Avenue.

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Wed 9/6/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 9/6/23	7:00 PM	Virtual Bible Study via Zoom
Thurs 9/7/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 9/9/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open
Sun 9/10/23	10:00 AM	God's Work Our Hands Day in the gym

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Zach has updated his office hours to Tues, Wed & Thurs, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. Stop by, make an appointment, give a call, get in touch and say Hi!

Dedicate Altar Flowers. There are still a few slots available for the upcoming months to sponsor the Altar Flowers. Cost is \$70 for the twin arrangements or \$35 for a single. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact the office have your name added!

Sunday, September 10th is the 10th Anniversary of God's Work Our Hands day, and we have some great plans in store as we observe this event. We are doing a joint project with Trinity Lutheran, Pasadena and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran, Altadena, where we will be creating care kits for PCC students in need. We will also be worshipping together with all 3 churches gathering in the gymnasium, followed by a potluck lunch and the service project. Worship will start at 10 am in the gym. Please mark your calendars and watch for the sign-up for the potluck lunch. Bring your friends to participate in the wonderful GWOH festivities!

Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th, which is when the choir resumes and we'll have our annual BBQ here after service. We hope to have a luau and also raise money for the ELCA relief after the Maui wildfires. Come enjoy some Hawaiian music, wear your flip flops and Hawaiian shirts, and join in the festivities after our regular worship service. Contact David if you'd like to help plan! We hope to see you there to spread the Aloha!

The Hill Avenue Grace Food Shelf needs volunteers! We're looking for new, friendly faces to help distribute food on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. You can help out as often or as little as you want. If you're open to hearing more, please contact Angela Jorgensen at foodshelf@hillavenuegrace.org.

Join us this Sunday at 10 AM for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!

Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: worship

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,95007590439#,,,,*4584517# US (San Jose)

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Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: 4584517

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We are back to joining at the altar for communion. We will be going up the center aisle and returning down the side aisles. If you are not comfortable with that, pick up a communion set at the table in the narthex and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!



Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



Update on Maui - We Want to Help, But How

As we continue to hear more news of the devastation caused by the wildfires in Maui, many people have been asking for more ways to support. Please read the message below from Rev J.P. Sabbithi (Regional Assistant to the Bishop - [Pacifica Synod](#)) for ways to help.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

As we lift up our eyes unto to hills, we also stretch out our hands across the oceans for help. God has inspired all of you to do "something" to help the wounded. People of Maui will be grateful for your help. Here are the ways that you could help.

Donation in Cash: For now, the island of Maui is inundated with donation in kind. However, people need money to buy day to day things. When you give monetary donations, you are also helping the local economy. For example, they might need a gift cards for purchasing gasoline for their cars. So if you know a trusted organization or church or temple on Maui you could send them there. Beware of scammers.

The other need is paying for therapy and counseling which are not covered by all insurance companies. For example, organizations like [Pacific Health Ministry](#) will coordinate with the interfaith coalition to provide spiritual care & counseling. You could choose to support any of these similar organizations. Or [donate to the Pacifica Synod](#). 100% of the funds will be used to support Hawai'i.

Hear the cries of your people God! Hear the cries of orphaned children and the cries of bereaved families. Be with those still searching for their loved ones. Be compassionate to those who are engaged in the recovery of your creation lying in the ashes. May you grant them needed physical, emotional and spiritual strength to do this sacred work. In Christ name we pray. Amen.

Thank you for your compassion. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Your servant in Christ,

JP Sabbithi

Regional Assistant to the Bishop – Pacifica Synod

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