

*3rd Sunday After
Pentecost
June 9, 2024*



1812 North Highland Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

Some practical things for you to know:

Children: All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

Restrooms are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

THE ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

We stand as we are able and face the Baptismal Font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Congregation: Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God, our provider,

Congregation: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Congregation: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

Page 3

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The reading is concluded:

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

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Page 939

Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

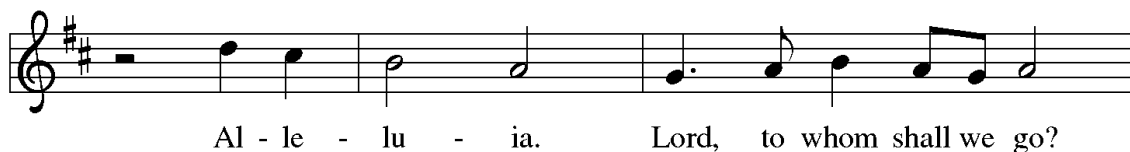
¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. ^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The reading is concluded:

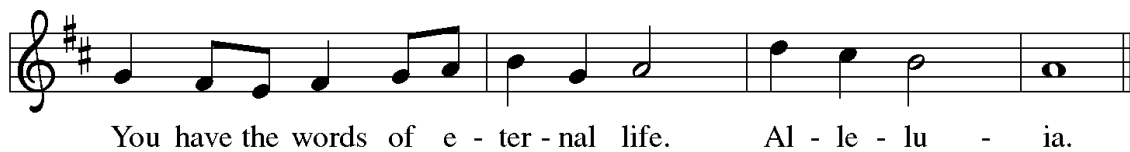
The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Mark 3:20-35

Page 814

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 3rd chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus went back to the home of Simon Peter;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain [Jesus], for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter;
²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an
eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called
him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers
and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my
brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my
brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

After the reading...

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

We Sit

SERMON

We Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

ELW 619 vs. 1-4

We Sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends “Merciful God,” and we respond **“receive our prayer.”**

OFFERING

We Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the
feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us
to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Congregation: Amen.**

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

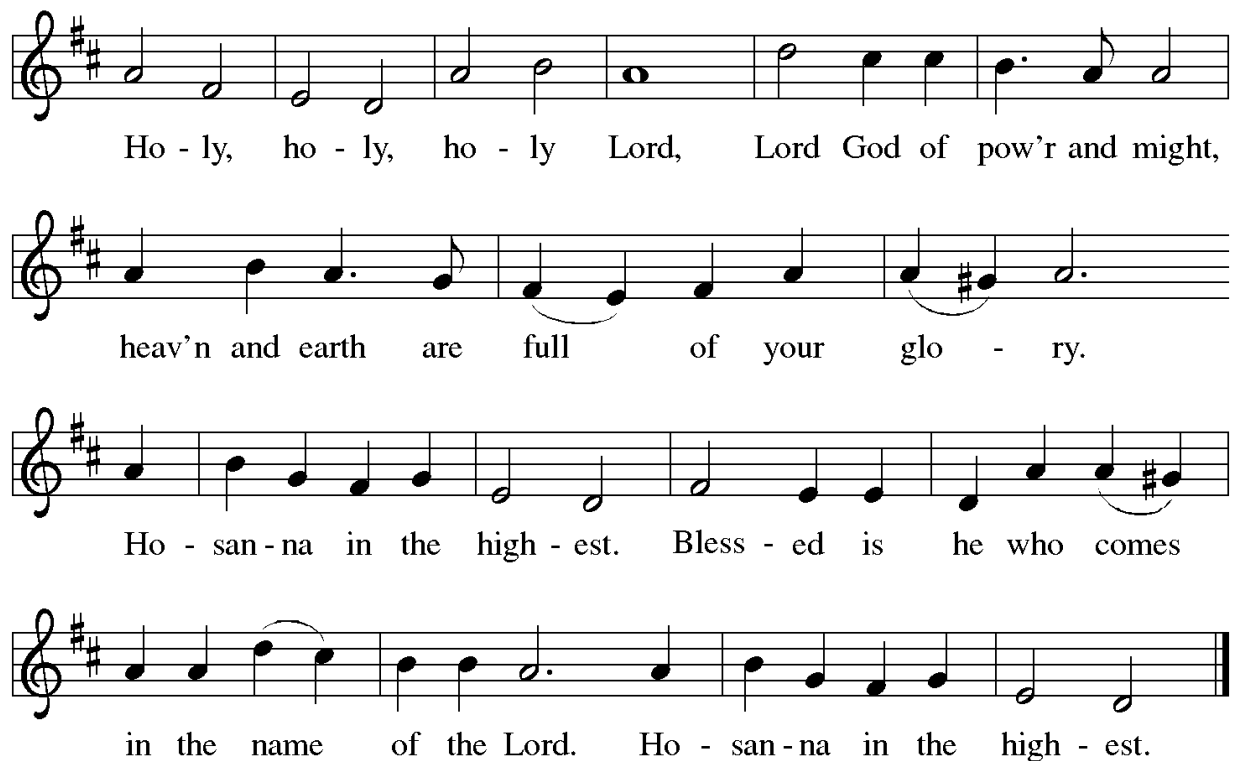
Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

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.

Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre;
venga a nosotros tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;
perdona nuestras ofensas, como también

Vater unser im Himmel,
Geheiligt werde dein Name.
Dein Reich komme,
Dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.

Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute;
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
Wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.

Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich, und die Kraft,
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
no nos dejes caer en la tentación,
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, el Poder,
y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos.
Amén.

We Sit

COMMUNION

After all have receive Communion, we stand.

POST-COMMUNION SONG

Dona nobis pacem

ELW 753

1 *Canon*

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Congregation: Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

SHARING OF PEACE & DISMISSAL

Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. The peace of the Lord be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Light refreshments are served after the church service. Please come join us for cookies and conversation.

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