

June 21, 2026

The Moral of the Story Is...

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus, the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus, the Christ, I declare the entire

forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

516

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

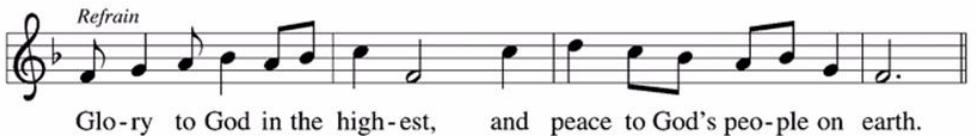
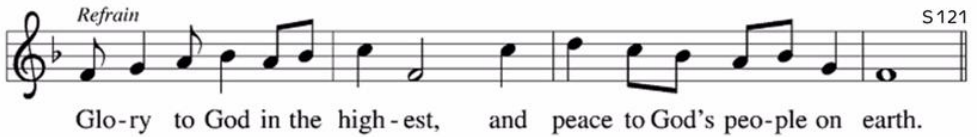


P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2





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, 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.



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

Prayer of the Day

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: A people holy to the Lord our God.

A: We have seen what our God has done

C: We declare God's faithfulness from age to age for all time.

A: We hear and keep God's Word,

C: And all that God has spoken we will do.

P: Let us pray:

C: With eager ears, willing hearts and open minds we listen for Your word, Lord God. Through the inspiration of Spirit, let it take root, blossom and bear the fruits of wisdom, understanding and action. For the sake of Jesus and a world hungry for your Kingdom, do not leave us barren and wilting. Amen.

LESSON

Zechariah 8:11-17

But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the Lord of hosts. For there will be a sowing of peace. The vine will yield its fruit. The ground will give its produce. The skies will give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. Just as you have been a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong. For, thus says the Lord of hosts - Just as my purpose was to bring disaster on you when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent - says the Lord of Hosts - so, again, my purpose in these days is to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not be afraid! These are the things that you will do: speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another; and love no false oath – for, all these are things that I hate says the Lord.

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 107

*O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.*

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those the Lord redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

*Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.*

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and the Lord delivered them from their distress;**

*the Lord led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.*

**Let them thank the Lord for the Lord's steadfast
love, for the Lord's wonderful works to humankind.**

*For the Lord satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry the Lord fills with good things.*

**Let them extol the Lord in the congregation of the
people, and praise the Lord in the assembly of the
elders.**

*The Lord turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,*

**The Lord turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.**

*And there the Lord lets the hungry live,
and they establish a town to live in;
they sow fields, and plant vineyards,
and get a fruitful yield.*

**By the Lord's blessing they multiply greatly,
and the Lord does not let their cattle decrease.**

*When they are diminished and brought low
through oppression, trouble, and sorrow,
the Lord pours contempt on princes
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;
but the Lord raises up the needy out of distress,
and makes their families like flocks.*

**The upright see it and are glad;
and all wickedness stops its mouth.**

*Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.*

In this promise of salvation through Christ you all rejoice - even if now, for a little while, you have had to suffer various trials - so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold

that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. . . For this reason, then, get your mind ready! Be attentive and aware! Set all your hope on the grace being brought to you in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly followed in your ignorance. Instead, as Jesus, who called you, is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct! For it is written, "You will be holy, for I am holy. . ." Your souls are purified in the obedience of the Truth, into genuine loving fellowship which comes from the heart of each other - love wholistically and intently! You have been born anew - not of perishable but of imperishable seed - through the living and enduring word of God. For,

*"All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord endures forever."* [Is 40:6-8]

That word is the good news that was announced to you. So, then, rid yourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Bible distribution

Verse

ELW Setting 3

S 142a

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

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

The Parable of the Sower and the Seeds

While Jesus was still sitting in the boat and the crowds were gathered on the beach, he spoke to them in parables, saying . . .

"Listen! A farmer came out to sow and in the sowing some of the seeds fall alongside the way and the birds come to devour them. But other seeds fall on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil, and it immediately springs up because the soil was so shallow. The rising sun then scorches it, and it dries up because it has no root. But other seeds fall on the thorns, and those thorns grow up and choke them out. But other seeds fall on the good ground, and it yields grain, some a hundredfold, but some sixty, but some thirty. If you have ears – hear!"

Then Jesus said to the disciples - those who were intended to hear and understand: "Hear the parable of the one sowing.

To everyone hearing the Word of the Kingdom and not understanding comes the Evil and snatches away what is being sown in their heart – this is what is being sown along the way.

But, as for what is being sown into the rocky ground - these are those hearing the Word and immediately receiving it with joy but do not have root in themselves, but have short attention spans and when struggles because of the Word or outright persecution because of the Word come, they are immediately scandalized and their faith withers.

But, as for what is being sown into the thorns - these are those hearing the Word and then the anxiety of the age and the trickery of riches choke the Word and make it unfruitful.

But, as for what is being sown in good soil - these are those hearing the Word and understanding; who, indeed, bear good fruit and yield, some, a hundredfold, but some sixty, but some thirty.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Christ Taught Us[tune: 542]

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.

But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.

We thank you for each laborer who lives in loving ways,
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.

Affirmation of Baptism (8:30)/Apostles Creed (11:00)

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.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär-nan ej på him-la - fäs - tet, få-geln ej i kän-da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace

Offering / Offertory

182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us Pray

C: God of grace and abundance, we joyfully offer these gifts of thanks for your blessings in our lives. We pray that you find what we bring in this moment to be an acceptable and adequate reflection of our gratitude, that you will continue to look on us as your faithful people, worthy of your favor and beneficence.

And with humbleness in the face of our hubris, we beg your forgiveness for our lack of attention, respect and care for all you provide. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 3 S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the 'Great Thanksgiving' section. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second and third staves also contain repeat signs. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

P: It is indeed . . .

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the 'It is indeed . . .' section. It consists of four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic and includes some syncopation. The lyrics are written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves also contain double bar lines. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

The Lord's Prayer

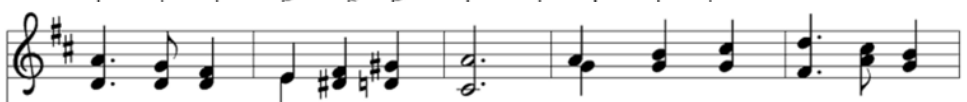
C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

733. 689



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things

2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our

3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's

4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the

neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work

guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-

fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.

with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.

joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.

hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction & Recessional

We Plow the Fields

681

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Flowers are placed on the altar by Barbara & Gary Knock in honor of their 68th wedding anniversary.

THROUGH AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM we welcome into greater responsibility for their baptism and full voting membership in Grace: Robert Alberty and Ryan Matthew Sabanosh. Please pray for them as they undertake this greater commitment and expression of their faith.



Sunday, June 21

Last Day to RSVP to June Dining Out
 8:30 a.m. Worship & Confirmation
 9:45 a.m. Outdoor Worship in the memorial garden – weather permitting
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, June 22

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 23

Voting station in the fellowship hall

Wednesday, June 24

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

Thursday, June 25

6:00 p.m. Grace Dining Out @ Trattoria Sei

Sunday, June 28

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Outdoor Worship in the memorial garden – weather permitting

11:00 a.m. Worship



Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Music Director*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Samantha Calamera, *Sexton*

Doug Jenkins, *Dig. Ministry* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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