

## **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Grace Episcopal Church  
Galena, Illinois**

**October 24, 2021 10:30am**

### ***Welcome to Grace Church!***

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online on Zoom.

We have chosen to keep our online and in-person congregations together. For those at home on Zoom, links to the bulletin may be found in Friday's e-Blast, the Zoom invitation, and on our website. Printed copies will be available for the in-person congregation. If you are worshipping in the church and wish to use a bulletin on your electronic device, you must download it **before** coming into the church. Please be aware that we are recording this service for later upload to Facebook, YouTube and our website. It is possible that you will be shown briefly in the recording.

#### ***For those present in the Church:***

**Please put your smartphone or other device in airplane mode so that our internet capacity is reserved for our online streaming.**

#### ***For those on Zoom:***

**Please mute yourselves before the Prelude begins and immediately after the Peace.**

#### ***New Information:***

**Due to the upsurge in COVID infections and out of concern for those who cannot yet be vaccinated or whose immune systems are compromised, we respectfully request that you wear a mask indoors, regardless of your vaccination status.**

**Social hour will be suspended.**

Masks are required for all singing, whether in the choir or congregation.

Masks and hand sanitizer are available at each entrance for those who need them.

You may be seated in any pew EXCEPT for a section in the rear of the nave reserved for any who wish to maintain distancing. In that area, please sit only where seats are marked by bulletins.

Baskets are located at each entrance for your offerings. If possible, please place them in the baskets prior to the service so they may be dedicated with the other gifts at the offertory.

Communion will be offered—wafer only—at the altar rail.

***Should you become ill after attending worship, please notify the church so that others present may be contacted.***

As life continues to change, let us rejoice in God who continues to be revealed to us and give thanks for our ability to share in worship in hope for the time when all of us can be together again.

*As we prepare ourselves for worship, please sit or kneel in quietness while the prelude is offered.*

## We gather to worship

### PRELUDE

*Spirit of God/O Breath of Life*

*Atkinson/Blomquist/Berry*

### OPENING HYMN 411

*O Bless the Lord, My Soul!*

*J. Montgomery/A. Williams*

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever

### GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace. to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## We proclaim God's word

### THE LESSON

**Lector:** A reading from **Jeremiah 31:7-9**

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

**Lector:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

*(We read alternately by verse as directed by the lector.)*

### Psalm 126

#### In convertendo

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us, \***  
**and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears \***  
**will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## THE EPISTLE

**Lector:**           **A reading from Hebrews 7:23-28**

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

**Lector:**           Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand.)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN 536

*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*  
*(verses 1-2)*

*W. Jabusch/Torah Song*

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark**.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaëus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell

*(We stand after a brief silence.)*

## We affirm our faith

### THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

*Amen.*

## We offer prayers

Deacon: Gracious God, through your Son Jesus you call us to come to you, that may see you with our eyes and be filled with the vision of your compassionate reign: Hear us as we cry out to you, saying: Taste and see that God is good; happy are they who trust in the Most High!

Intercessor: You have formed the church to be the community of Jesus our eternal high priest who is holy, blameless, and undefiled and who intercedes for those who approach you: Fill us with the faith that makes us whole. Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Lector: You have shown us that you are able to do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted, O God: Guide our leaders and all in authority that they may walk in your ways of compassion and peace. Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Intercessor: You have given us the goodness of the earth to use for our own benefit and have called us to care for creation in your name: Open our hearts and minds to perceive your presence in the world around us that we might care for it as we would care for you.

Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Lector: You have revealed yourself as one who travels beside us as friend and guide: Reach out to all in our community who may sit on the side while life passes by, and give unto them such hopeful hearts that they may rush to you and be healed. Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Intercessor: Listen to our prayers of intercession as we come to you for help, praying especially for Maria (Kallback), and all those on our Prayer List. Others? \_\_\_\_\_

Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Lector: Hear our proclamations of praise as we exalt your holy name, giving thanks especially for Alex (Meade) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; the birthdays of \*Jim (Post) and \*Brian (Beadle); our outreach partners Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission; all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors. Other blessings?\_\_\_\_\_

Draw all people into your eternal presence, enabling those who have died to rejoice before you, especially Betty (Montgomery); and we remember the deaths of Rhett (Button),

Ralph (Bostwick), Robert (Klaus), Jessie (Melville) and Dr. Nathan (Short). Others? \_\_\_\_\_

Taste and see that God is good;

**People: happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

Deacon: Almighty God, giver of every good gift: we pray for our Rector Search Committee. We thank you for the ministry of Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell. Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds and hearts of those who shall seek a new rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Jesus, Son of David, who always shows mercy to your children who come to you in great need and hope: Restore our vision that we may see and embrace the faith that makes us well and follow you on the way that leads to eternal life, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, live as one God, forevermore.

***Amen.***

## **We confess our sins and are forgiven**

*(Please stand or kneel.)*

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: *Amen.*

*(We stand.)*

## **We share the peace of Christ**

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## **We share the ministries of the church**

### **MOMENT OF MINISTRY**

Amy Hardwicke

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY**

#### **ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING**

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;  
bless and guide them wherever they may be.  
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;  
raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace  
which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# We offer our lives and gifts to God

Priest: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*For those at home who have received the consecrated wafers and communion items,  
you may prepare your worship area as the priest prepares the table.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Healer of My Soul  
With Phil Jackman on clarinet*

*J.M. Talbot*

*We stand as our offerings are presented and remain standing.*

## PRESENTATION HYMN

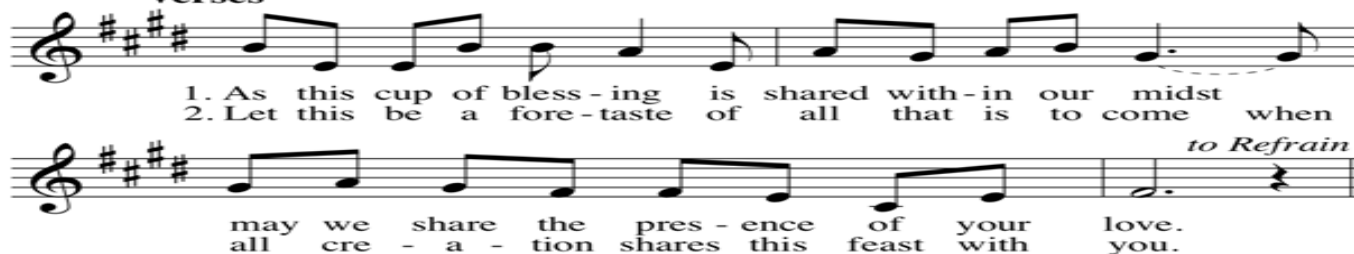
*As the Grains of Wheat*

### Refrain

*Congregation:*



### Verses



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

# We share the Holy Communion

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

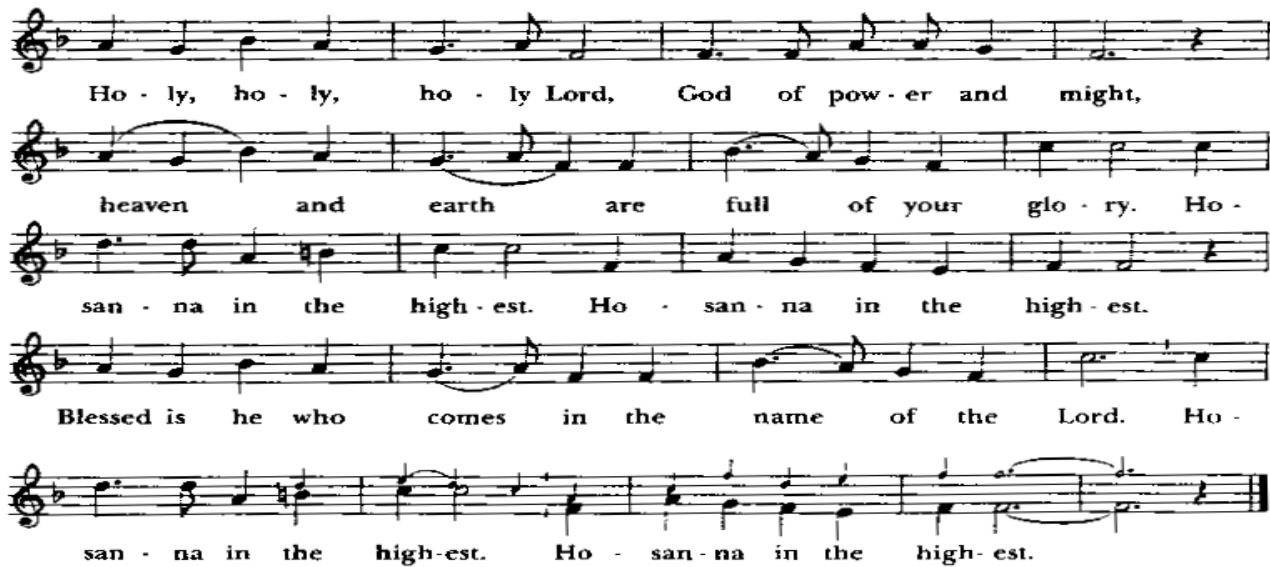
Enriching Our Worship Eucharistic Prayer 1





Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:



*(Please stand or kneel.)*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

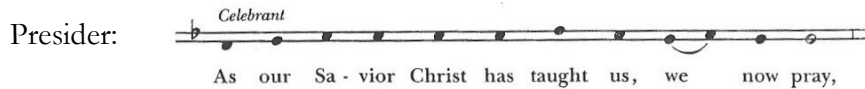
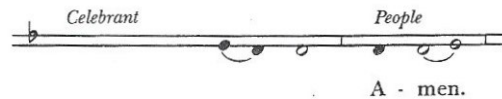
**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

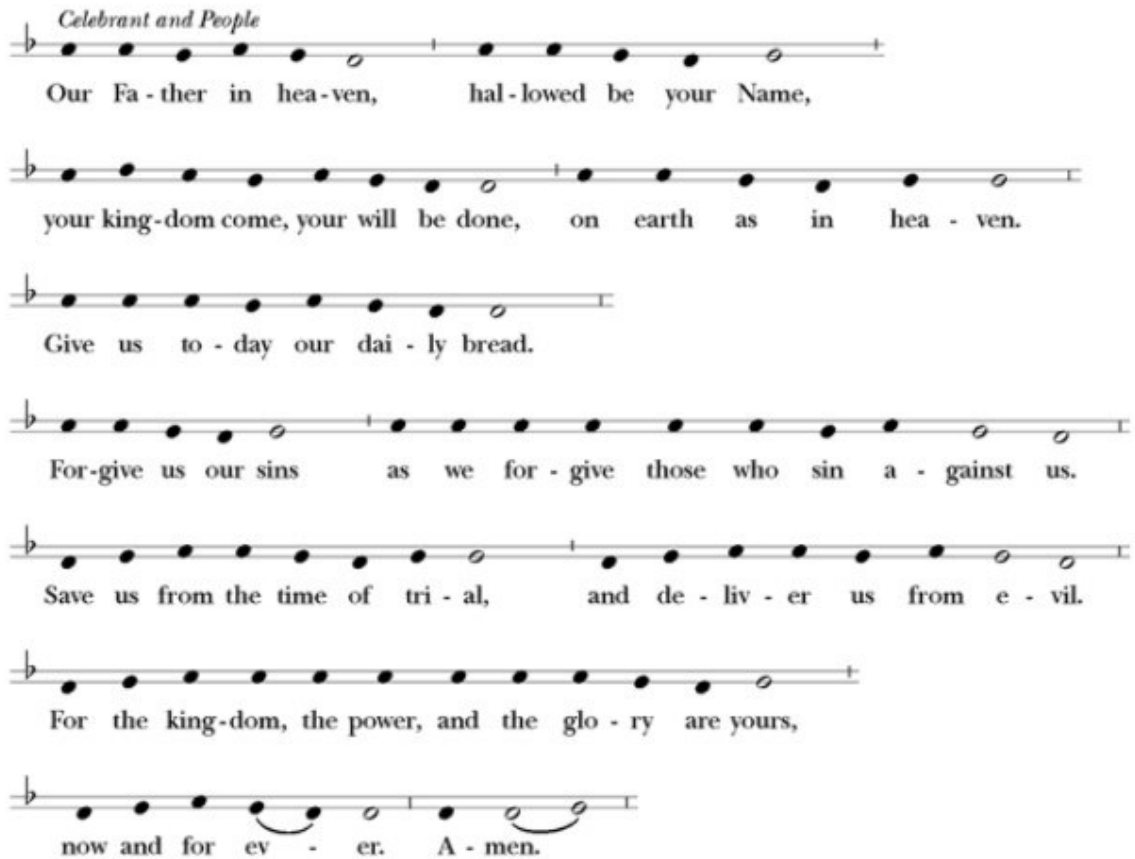
**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



The Lord's Prayer chanted by the people S148



Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

BCP364

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## FRACTION

*Agnus Dei/ Cordero de Dios/ Lamb of God*  
—from Missa Guadalupe—

Joel Martinson/ Pat Terry

2  
1. Ag nus De i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di;

7  
mi - se-re - re no - bis, mi-se-re - re no - bis, mi-se-re - re no - bis,

13  
mi - se-re - re no - bis. 2. Cor - der - o de Dios, que qui-tas el pe-ca - do del

18  
mun - do, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,

23  
ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.

27  
3. Lamb of God, you take a-way the world's sin. Have mer - cy on us,

33  
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Grant us Your peace.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*All are welcome at the communion table to receive a blessing or the wafer. Please approach the chancel by the center aisle. Proceed to the altar rail where you may stand or kneel. Hold your hands crossed, palms up, to receive the wafer. And, if you do not wish to receive the wafer, but desire a blessing, simply approach the priest with your arms crossed across your chest.*

*If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC 341 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

L. Benson/Omni Die

(Please stand.)

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Presider: And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL 535

*Ye Servants of God*

*C. Wesley/Paderborn*

Deacon: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*

*Traditional/Kallman*

***The flowers today are given by Amy Hardwicke.***

## Ministers of the Service

\* Members and Guests, *Celebrants*  
\* Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, *Presider*  
\* Rev. Diane Luther, *Deacon*  
\* Steve Coates, *Lector*  
\* Debbie Kallback, *Intercessor*

\* Robin French, *Music Director*  
\* Nancy Cook, *Erben Organist*  
\* Eric Kallback, *Vestry Coordinator*  
\* Pat Golden & Charlotte Stryker, *Altar Guild*  
\* Maren Coates, *Greeter*

### Scripture Readings for October 31st, 2021 *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Hebrews 9:11-14

Psalm 119:1-8  
Mark 12:28-34

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Prayers are Requested. *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:***

### **Cycle of Prayer:**

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Bishop-Elect; Chilton, our Assisting Bishop; and all members of Grace Church.

### **We pray for those who are sick or in need:**

Leila (Anwar), Barbara (Bolsen), \*Bob (Burton), Rose (Buttall), Bishop-Elect Paula (Clark), \*Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), \*Renee (Dowe), \*Al (Elsbree), \*Cathie (Elsbree), Eunice (Ferguson), \*Jennie (Fjelde), Barb (Hiller), \*Barb (Hooper), Maria (Kallback), Barb (Kellar), Jean (Kohler), Ginger (Komiskey), Verity (Liljedahl), Robin & Michael (Luckey), \*Elizabeth (Ludescher), \*Alice (Maffit), Terry (Maglich), Liam (Malone), \*Diann & \*Robert (Marsh), JoAnn (Mikelson), \*Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), Ruth (Niendorf), \*Bill (Norton), Alan (Oyen), Anne (Poston), Shelby (Powers), Lisa (Prindle), \*Greg (Serwich), \*Karen (Serwich), Melody (Serwich), Paula (Simosky), \*Mary Lou (Smith), \*Pat (Terry), \*Tom (V.), Ed (Ward), Joe (Watts), Paulette (Zais), Mina, Jeremy, Audrey, Patricia, Al, Robyn and Kayden.

### **We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:**

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military; the birthdays of \*Jim (Post) and \*Brian (Beadle); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

### **We pray for those who have died, especially Betty (Montgomery);**

### **and remember the anniversary of the deaths of:**

Rhetta (Button), Ralph (Bostwick), Robert (Klaus), Jessie (Melvill) and Dr. Nathan (Short).

### **Music Copyright Information:**

*Spirit of God/O Breath of Life; Atkinson/Blomquist/Berry; © Alfred Music Co.*

*O Bless the Lord My Soul; J. Montgomery/A. Williams*

*Glory to God; Robert Powell © Church Pension Fund*

*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; Words: ©1966,1984 W. Jabusch/Arrangement ©1985 GLA Publications, Inc.*

*Healer of My Soul; J.M. Talbot*

*As the Grains of Wheat: Words & Music © 1990 GLA Publications, Inc.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy; ©1971,1977 GLA Publications, Inc.*

*The Lord's Prayer; Music ©1971, Mason Martens; Harmonization, ©1991, Mark Howe*

*Agnus Dei; Setting: J. Martinson from Missa Guadalupe ©1994 Selah Publishing Company*

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken; L. Benson/Omni Die; Words © Louis F. Benson*

*Ye Servants of God; C. Wesley/Paderborn*

*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho; Traditional/Kallman © Morningstar Publishing*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*for the week of October 24th, 2021*

**ALL SAINTS' DAY** is coming! Since November 1 falls on a Monday this year, we will observe this Principle Feast Day on Sunday, October 31. As is customary, we will remember those who have died since All Saints' Day with the tolling of the bell and all others whose names we wish to lift up by lighting candles in their memory. Please use the sign-up sheets at each entrance for the names of loved ones that we will remember. You are also invited to bring photographs that will be displayed in the chancel on that day.

**Ladder to the Light Conversations** with the Rector will continue today and on Sundays after the Eucharist in the Chapel.

**Social Hour** has been suspended due to COVID upsurge.

## **Zoom Poetry Meeting**

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at [poston@sxu.edu](mailto:poston@sxu.edu) or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive information about the meeting.

**Service of Compline** is Tuesday, October 26th at 8:30pm on Zoom.

**Mid-Week Morning Prayer** is this Wednesday, October 27th, at 7:30am in the church and online.

**Wednesday Morning Study Group** will meet next at 10:00 am, Wednesday, October 27th, both in the Parish Hall and, for those not able or wanting to attend in person, on Zoom. We are a group that studies spiritual subjects, including the Bible. All are welcome to join us to enhance their knowledge of spirituality and explore how to apply it to their lives. Currently we are studying the Gospel of Luke. Meetings (in the Parish Hall and on Zoom) begin at 10:00 a.m. (Those in the Parish Hall need to wear a mask.) Anyone needing a Zoom invitation can contact Greg Serwich ([gserwich@gmail.com](mailto:gserwich@gmail.com)).

**Richard Babcock Memorial Yarn Ministry** will meet on Thursdays at 1:30pm in the Parish Hall until Thanksgiving.

**Meditative Prayer** meets Friday, October 29nd, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.



grace episcopal church  
galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Bishop-Elect of Chicago  
The Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector  
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon  
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

## vestry

Lynn Giles  
Jim Berry

Sr. Warden  
Treasurer

Richard Luther  
Crystal Mason

Jr. Warden  
Clerk

Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)

Nancy Cook (2020-23)

Crystal Mason (2021-24)

Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22)

Eric Kallback (2020-23)

Phil Jackman (2021-24)

107 S. Prospect Street Galena, Illinois 61036  
Phone: 815-777-2590 Website: [www.gracegalena.org](http://www.gracegalena.org)

# Every Perfect Gift

## The Gift of Faith



Our often fast-paced, frenetic lives get in the way of the north stars that should be guiding us. And trajectories change when, in the blink of an eye, we are blindsided.

My family's blindside happened four years ago. On a Tuesday morning before work, my sister-in-law Jan was on a walk with the kid's five-month-old puppy Peter Paul. A young man speeding hit them head-on, killing them instantly.

Jan was married to my twin brother Jonathan, and they have twelve children, including ten adopted from Texas, Guatemala, Mexico, Russia, China, and Ethiopia. She was also a beloved breast cancer physician with a practice that served the underserved.

Never afraid to love well, Jan was confident in her faith and marriage, leading her and Jonathan to adopt several older children with traumatic histories. They gave these children second chances believing they could thrive in a loving Christian family and a supportive community.

Jan's ministry on earth informed our belief that gratitude increases with faith. She saw with her heart.

In today's reading, we find Bartimeus, a blind beggar with a deep faith in God living on society's margins. He cries out to Jesus as he's leaving Jericho, "Son of David, have mercy on me." Jesus asks, "what do you want from me?" and Bartimeus says, "Heal Me." Jesus heals him and says, "Go, your faith has made you well."

I find a parallel between Bartimeus' story and Jan's life. Bartimeus' miraculous healing happened because of his faith. He saw with his heart. And Jan, relying on her faith to help her overcome obstacles, inspired her family, friends, and patients to do the same."

Thomas Merton said, "Gratitude is the heart of the Christian life." May our faith continue to increase our gratitude so we, in turn, can live with seeing hearts. | [tens.org](https://tens.org)

*Catherine Miller directs pastoral programs and adult formation at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in North Dallas and serves on the advisory board for Invite, Welcome, Connect.*



### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

**What blindside moments have you experienced in which your faith helped you pull through?**



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