



GRACE / JOY

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9/10, 2025

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

ABOUT OUR SERIES: CAUSE / EFFECT

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally, there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. This is important for us Christians to know as we navigate our lives.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. In this series we will be looking at themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about *Cause and Effect in God's Kingdom*.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE: GRACE / JOY

King David once said that guilt makes you feel like your very bones are rotting. Guilt makes you feel weak . . . sick. Everyone carries guilt about something. Worse, our efforts to deal with guilt—minimizing our mistakes, making excuses for our sin—don't help. Just one thing does: God's gift of grace. Christ's love is undeserved and unconditional. He pardons every sin.

This is the entire reason Jesus came to earth. This was his mission—to give the gift of grace! When we receive that gift, our guilt melts. Left in its place is the joy of our salvation. Today, we see ourselves in Zacchaeus, both in our faults and in our joy, blessed by a Savior who loves us!

HYMN

561 Before the Throne of God Above sts. 1-3

The cantor sings the first two stanzas.

1 Before the throne of God above

*I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.*

*My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.*

2 When Satan tempts me to despair

*and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.*

*Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.*

STAND

3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,
spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. At one with
him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

HYMN

583 God Loves Me Dearly sts. 1, Ref, 2-3

The cantor sings stanza two.



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
 deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

STAND

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN

583 God Loves Me Dearly sts. Ref, 5

5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -

ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, forgive the wrongdoing of your people, and be gentle with us in our weakness. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin, and direct us to the path of righteousness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST READING

Micah 7:18–20

There is no God like the LORD, who forgives guilt and delights in showing mercy.

¹⁸Who is a God like you, who forgives guilt,
and who passes over the rebellion of the survivors from his inheritance?
He does not hold onto his anger forever.
He delights in showing mercy.

¹⁹He will have compassion on us again.
He will overcome our guilty deeds.
You will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.

²⁰You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham,
as you swore to our fathers from days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 63C Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay

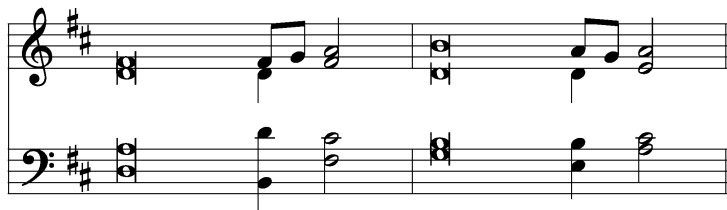
The congregation joins in the refrains and the “Glory be...”.

Refrain



Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ev - er sing your praise.

Tone



*You, God, / are my God,
earnestly I / seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being / longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no / water.
I have seen you in the sanctu- / ary
and beheld your power and your / glory. **Refrain***

*Because your love is bet- / ter than life,
my lips will glori- / fy you.
I will praise you as long / as I live,
and in your name I will lift / up my hands.
Because you / are my help,
I sing in the shadow / of your wings.*

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 5:6–11

The gift of God's grace is revealed in Christ's death for sinners.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EAGLE CHOIR (10:45)

What an Anchor

The Eagle Choir represents Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School (Denver, CO), one of our partner schools in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). They are here for the National Choral Festival, which is hosted by Fox Valley Lutheran High School. We welcome them as our guests today, along with those representing Divine Savior Academy (Doral, FL). The Lord bless you!

*The peace that passes understanding cannot be explained,
A precious mystery God has given only to the saints.
Though troubled winds may rage and threaten all that we hold dear,
We hear Him whisper through the tempest, "My child, have no fear."*

*What an anchor, what a promise! We will never be alone.
In the darkest situations, help comes from the throne.
He provides the calm assurance through His Holy Word.
What an anchor in our Savior, settled and secure.*

*What an anchor, what a promise! We will never be alone.
In the darkest situations, help comes from the throne.
He provides the calm assurance through His Holy Word.
What an anchor in our Savior, settled and secure.*

STAND

Luke 19:9,10

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

Jesus brings grace to Zacchaeus' house. He demonstrates joy as his response.

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man named Zacchaeus was there. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but since he was short, he could not see because of the crowd. ⁴He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, because he was about to pass by that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶He came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully. ⁷When the people saw it, they were all grumbling because he went to be a guest of a sinful man.

⁸Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I am going to give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.

HYMN

578 Chief of Sinners Though I Be sts. 1-2, 4



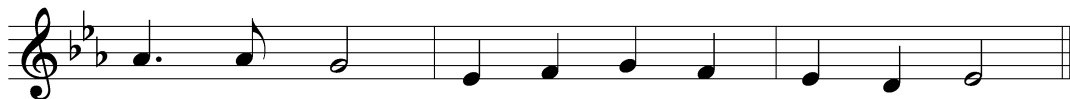
1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,
 all to me; all my wants to him are known,



lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—
 all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
 won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.

SERMON

Luke 19:1-10

More Joy than Guilt

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives transgression? Have compassion on us.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us.

You have reconciled us to yourself through the death of your Son, Jesus. Give us peace in your forgiveness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us.

Your Son came to seek and to save the lost. Fill us with love for the lost and move us to joy when they turn to you.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us.

The authorities that exist have been established by you. Teach us not to put our trust in mere mortals who cannot save, but trust in you.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us.

God, our refuge and strength, keep your holy Church steadfast in your Word, firm in the faith, and solid on the foundation of Christ alone.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

Have mercy on those who thirst for you, who suffer want, sickness or pain, [*especially...*]. Satisfy them in your time with your love that they may sing in the shadow of your wings.

We cling to you. Your right hand upholds us. Amen.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

HYMN

783 Abide with Me sts. 1, 4-5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,
 5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 on to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!

STAND

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

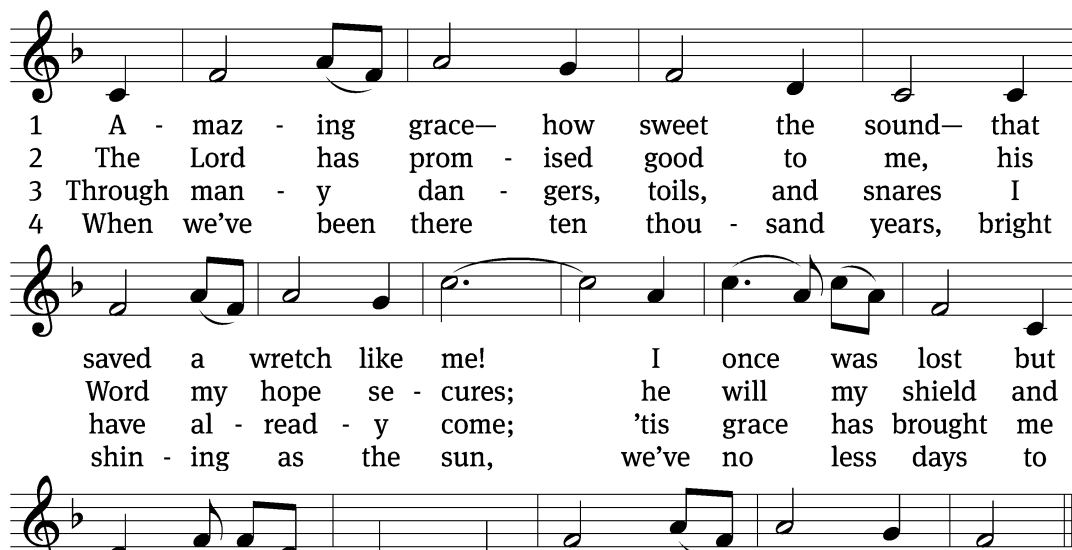
BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.

Amen.

HYMN

576 Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus. (Monday: Pastor Ryan Kolander, Riverview Lutheran Church)
Usher: Jeremy Fenske (8:00), Dave Huebner (10:45), Kurt Smith (Monday)
Lector: Jason Kempfert (8:00), Dan Feld (10:45)
Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger Cantor: Bethany Kempfert Bagpipes: Brenda Wilson
Choir: The Eagle Choir of Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School, directed by Dawn Punke

561 Before the Throne of God Above sts. 1–3

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583 God Loves Me Dearly sts. 1, Ref, 2–3, 5

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Psalm 63C Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay

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What an Anchor

By Rebecca Peck & Dianne Wilkinson

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 19:9,10 (Setting One)

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578 Chief of Sinners Though I Be sts. 1–2, 4

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Prayer of the Church

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783 Abide with Me sts. 1, 4–5

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576 Amazing Grace

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790. Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman. Text and tune: Public domain

God So Loved

Written by: Andrew Bergthold, Edmond Martin Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Mctyeire Cash. Album: Holy Water (Deluxe).

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Holy Bible

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