

## Grace United Methodist Church



**November 5, 2023 - 10:00AM**

**Order of Worship  
23rd Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Day/Communion**

**Grace United Methodist Church is a Family of Faith  
striving to share God's love with all.**

**\*Please Stand If You Are Able**

**Opening Voluntary – “The Name Of Jesus” by E. S. Lorenz**

**Choral Introit**

**Welcome/Greetings**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: On this All Saints Day, we gather to join the multitude of saints across the generations from all tribes, peoples, and languages, to proclaim:

**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: We come to remember, to grieve, and to celebrate those saints who have come before, yet whose life and witness continues to teach us:

**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: We gather today as the family of Christ, siblings and saints, diverse yet united by grace to live lives that declare:

**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: May we be guided today by the Lamb who is our Shepherd, the one who gathers us, comforts us and tends us.

**P: May we join in the work of the Shepherd to bring about a world with no more hunger, no more thirst, no more suffering, and no more pain that all the saints of the past, the present, and the future may share in God's abundant life. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn #711 – “For All the Saints”**

*SINE NOMINE*

**\*Opening Prayer**

**God of gentle, loving guidance, who brought the Israelites into a new land, filled with new hope and promise: Be with us today, opening our hearts and spirits to an awareness of your abiding love and presence with us. Help us to place our trust solely in you; for we ask this in Jesus’ Name, Amen.**

## **Scriptures**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**

9 You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. 11 As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, 12 urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. 13 We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel – Matthew 23:1-12** (Please stand if you are able)

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; 3 therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. 6 They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, 7 and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. 9 And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. 11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn before Message #2272 – “Holy Ground” (Faith We Sing Hymnal)**  
*HOLY GROUND*

**Message – “A Servants Heart”**

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Invitation**

L: All who hunger for love, come to the bread of life.

**P: Here, all are fed.**

L: All who thirst for the cup of blessing, come to the table of grace.

**P: Here, all are made whole.**

L: All who need mercy and grace, come to the Lamb of God.

**P: Here, all find a home.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Patient God, sometimes we just don't understand, we don't get it. We want instant gratification for all our needs. We don't want to have to follow direction or instructions. We are impatient. We want you to come down from heaven and solve our problems right now. We don't want to have to think about the problems and we are hesitant to create solutions. When we try to wiggle out of difficult situations we get even further bound up in our own problems. You ask us to trust you. You invite us to lean on your strong arms of comfort and support. You set us on our feet and give us gifts and talents to use for healing and hope. All these wonderful things you do for us, and still we whine and complain. Please forgive us, Lord. We are a stubborn people. As Jesus reminded the disciples to trust in God's commandments and guidance, so we are called to place our trust and confidence in your Presence. Heal our wounds. Calm our spirits and souls. Challenge and Encourage our service to humankind. And when at last we enter the land of promise, help us to truly give thanks and rejoice and praise you. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

You are not alone. God is always with you. You can place your trust in God, for God will not fail you. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace of Christ**

The saints of God are all around us. With eyes ready to see one another as we truly are, share signs of Christ's peace this day.

## **Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

As the Church, we are called to serve. Our service begins by offering our lives to Christ, and continues through the gifts we give, that the Church may continue to witness to the word of God.

**Choral Selection** – “Show Us How to Love” by M. A. Miller

\* **Hymn No. 95** - Presentation of the Offering

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**God is with us each day offering so many blessings. Now we bring these gifts in an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. O Lord, bless these gifts and the lives that these gifts represent. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving and Communion**

### ***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), Creator of heaven and earth, God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for

you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you—Christine Doeringer, Charles Kasuba, Maria Linzey, Anne Mahoney, Omar Omamand Pershad, Sergio Godinho, James Robert Wheeler

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***The Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response***

***Breaking the Bread***

***Giving the Bread and Cup***

### **Prayer After Receiving Communion**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\* Closing Hymn #664 – “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”      *THE ASH GROVE***

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary – “To God All Praise and Glory” by R. C. Wilson**

*(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)*

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	<b>Counting Team:</b> Everett Fitch
<b>Liturgist/Reader:</b> Bob DiSalvo	<b>Ushers:</b> Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
<b>Director of Music:</b> Kenneth Richardson	<b>Audio-Tech:</b> Brandon Gauntlett



♥♦Mary Turbeville (cousin of Lenore Kurz), ♥Jennifer LaRoche, ♥†Family of Michael Estivo (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Peggy Robinson, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Carolyn O'Loughlin, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Milly Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske).

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