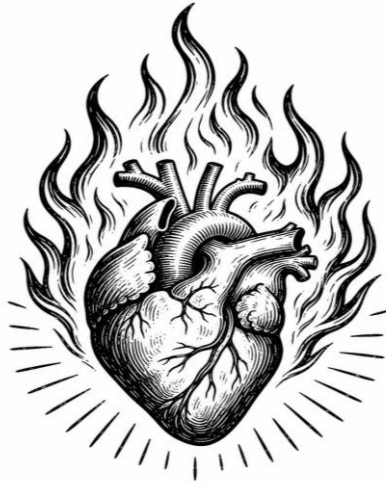




GRACE  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH

WHERE THE GOSPEL IS THE MAIN THING IN EVERYTHING

THE 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER TRINITY



**RENEWING THE POWER TO LOVE**  
-JOURNEYING THROUGH 1<sup>st</sup> JOHN-

A SERVICE OF  
HOLY COMMUNION

September 20, 2026

# GRACE NOTES – September 20, 2026

## VISION STATEMENT & VALUES.

Check out the inside cover of your bulletin to read our recently honed Mission and Values.

## INSTRUCTED SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION.

Next Sunday, Sept 27, we'll be having (at both our services) an Instructed Service of Holy Communion which goes through the service as we worship with some 'teaching points' that help us to see WHY we do what we do during worship, so that our worship all-year-round can be more fulfilling and understandable.

## RENEWING THE POWER TO LOVE:

### **Walking through the First Epistle of John.**

Join us as we engage deeply and healingly in the subject of Love as told by the aging apostle John in his first letter.

## SEXUALITY REDEEMED: EXPLORING ADDICTION AND HEALING.

The major malady in our time is sexual addiction, and the Church has the privilege of offering a gracious, honest, shame-free Word to those who are caught up in compulsive behavior and thinking. This class is for everyone, whether someone struggles with addiction or not. We'll talk about the nature of addiction, hear testimonies of how our folks have been freed-up, and learn how real progress can be made. 4pm, beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**TESTIFY!** We are putting together a book of testimonies from the people of Grace for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are looking for no more than 200-word testimonies that offer praise for specific things that he's done through the ministry of Grace, along with a photograph of the person/family making the testimony. Please email them to [ethanasius@gmail.com](mailto:ethanasius@gmail.com). Deadline for testimonies is Sept. 30.

**MONTHLY MISSIONS.** SutiSana in La Paz, Bolivia was founded in 2010 as a

freedom business, which exists to fight human trafficking and commercial exploitation. Sutisana offers dignified employment for survivors of trafficking, providing women the opportunity to learn artisanal skills and find stability and safety.

Pray against the great evils of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and for those impacted so that many women would find healing, restoration, and a new pathway forward through the work of this ministry. Learn more here: [www.sutisana.com](http://www.sutisana.com).

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** for all ages begins Sept. 13 at 4pm.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY IS HERE** for kids ages 3-6. Join us downstairs during the evening service to hear God's Big Story! See dismissal instructions in the bulletin. No CL on 10/4, 11/1, and 11/29. Our last class of the semester is 12/20.

**INFANT CARE ROOM.** The library is available as a dedicated space to care for your infants during the service. The livestream is available in this space during evening services.



**NURSERY.** We offer nursery for children (infants to three-year-olds) downstairs.

**THE CASA YOUTH MINISTRY** for all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders resumes Sept. 15.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE?** Use this QR-code & sign up today!

## WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE

-Offering plate

-Mail: PO Box 45 Grove City PA 16127

-Venmo: [GraceAnglicanChurch](https://www.venmo.com/GraceAnglicanChurch)

-PayPal: [donate@graceanglicanonline.com](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgraceanglicanonline.com)

## Processional Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4. For Your church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,  
 5. For Your - self, best Gift Di - vine! To our race so free - ly giv'n;

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:  
 Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:  
 Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 Of - f'ring up on ev - 'ry shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:  
 For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

**Song Ending**

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.



**Minister.** Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit.

**Answer.** And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

**Minister.** Let us pray [together saying,]

### The Collect for Purity, said by all

**A**LMIGHTY God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Summary of the Law**

**H**EAR what our Lord Jesus Christ says. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as your self. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. -MATTHEW 22:37-40.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**A**Lmighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of your laws, and in the works of your commandments; that, through your most mighty protection, both here and always, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise:** This is My Father's World

1. This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and Heav'n be one.

**Minister.** The Lord be with you.

**Answer.** And with your spirit.

**Minister.** Let us pray.

### **Collect for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**O** Lord, you have taught us that without love, all our deeds are worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Epistle Lesson:** I John 2:3-17 (ESV)

**Reader.** A reading from the first epistle of John.

By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup>At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. <sup>10</sup>Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup>But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

<sup>12</sup>I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

<sup>13</sup>I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

<sup>14</sup>I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

**Reader.** The Word of the Lord.

**Answer.** Thanks be to God.

*\*Evening: kids (ages 3-6) may be taken to Children's Liturgy & retrieved at the Peace*

## **Psalm 19:1-5**

The heavens declare the glory of God, \*

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day speaks to another, \*

and one night gives knowledge to another.

3 There is neither speech nor language, \*

and their voices are not heard;

1 But their sound has gone out into all lands, \*

and their words to the ends of the world.

**The Gospel Lesson:** John 13:33-35 (ESV)

**Reader.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Answer.** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**+** Jesus said, “Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one

another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**Reader.** The Gospel of the Lord.

**Answer.** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon**

The Rev'd Ethan Magness, Rector

**The Nicene Creed**

LET us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**W**E believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

WE believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

## The Prayers

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

**A**Lmighty and ever-living God, we are taught by your holy Word to offer prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all people. We humbly ask you mercifully to receive our prayers. Inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all who confess your holy Name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray that you will lead the nations of the world in the way of righteousness; and so guide and direct their leaders, especially Donald our President, Josh our Governor, and Randy our Mayor, that your people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may impartially administer justice, uphold integrity and truth, restrain wickedness and vice, and protect true religion and virtue. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests, and deacons, and especially to Steve our Archbishop; Julian, our Provincial Dean; Alec our Bishop; Ethan, Don, Chad, and Joe, our priests; that by their life and teaching they may proclaim your true and life-giving Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments. We pray for our parish staff and vestry, and all ministers and missionaries in residence. And to all your people give your heavenly grace, especially to this Congregation, that with reverent and obedient hearts we may hear and receive your holy Word, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Prosper, we pray, all those who proclaim the Gospel of your kingdom throughout the world, and strengthen us to fulfill your great commission, making disciples of all nations. This month we pray for SutiSana in Bolivia, which helps women to break free from human trafficking. We pray for protection and restoration for these women, and we ask you to intervene on behalf of the victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We ask you in your goodness, O Lord, to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [we welcome your spoken prayers]. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you all your servants who have departed this life in your faith and fear, and we ask you to give us grace to follow the good examples of all your saints, that we may share with them in your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Invitation to Confession**

**A**LL who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and seek to live in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in his holy ways: draw near with faith and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

### **General Confession**, said by all.

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Absolution**

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Comfortable Words**

**H**EAR the comfortable words from the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
-MATTHEW 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. -JOHN 3:16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. -1 TIMOTHY 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. -1 JOHN 2:1-2

**Minister.** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People.** And with your spirit.

**Offertory Sentence.** Walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God. -Ephesians 5:2

**Offering and Doxology** (tune: lasst uns erfreuen)

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion (the 1662 Order)

**Minister.** The Lord be with you.

**Answer.** And with your spirit.

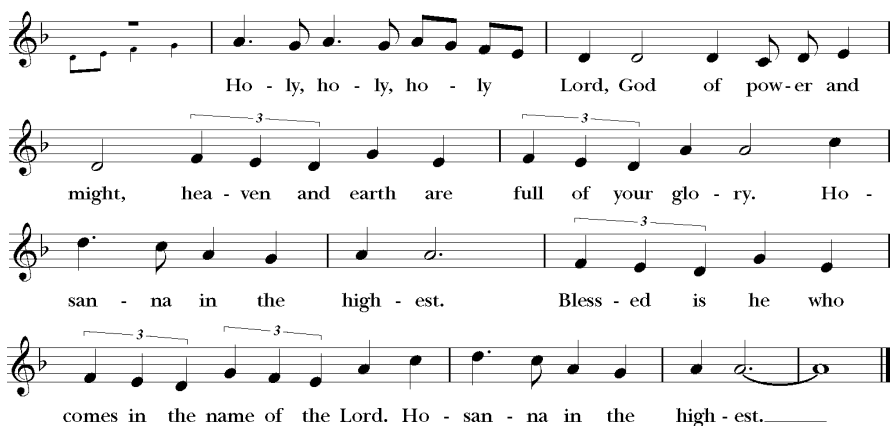
**Minister.** Lift up your hearts.

**Answer.** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Minister.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Answer.** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**I**T is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



## The Prayer of Humble Access, said by all, kneeling.

**W**E do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*The People continue to kneel. The minister stands and continues.*

**A**LL praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his

coming again. Hear us, merciful Father, and grant that we receiving these gifts from your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." **AMEN.**

**Invitation to Communion.** All baptized, believing Christians of an understanding age who are admitted to the Sacrament within their own church are encouraged to receive it with us. Scripture requires some understanding of the Supper, instructing those who commune to 'discern' the Body as well as 'examine themselves' (I Cor. 11). It is the historic and consistent practice of the Anglican Church for young children to be catechized before receiving the Supper (contact a minister for resources). Please walk down the middle aisle to receive the bread in open hands and consume it. Drinking wine directly from the common cup is the customary manner of receiving it, though bread may be carefully intincted (dipped) into the wine. Small, individual cups of wine are available for those who have health concerns. Gluten free bread is available.

**Intercessory prayer** is available in the back of the church. This takes place during the distribution of Communion. You can come back for prayer for any reason whatsoever. If you want prayer for healing (physical or otherwise), you can also request anointing with oil (a biblical symbol for healing and restoration).

## **Jesus, Faithful Friend of Sinners**

Words: Douglas Bond, 2014

1. Jesus, faithful Friend of sinners, God incarnate, pure and sinless;  
I am full of all that hinders—Empty, lonely, lost and friendless.

2. Jesus, tender Shepherd faithful, God in fullness here below;  
I am anxious, dull, ungrateful, prone to wander, full of woe.

3. Jesus, Servant, precious treasure, gave your life my life to win.  
I am vain, pursuing pleasure, full of hunger, self and sin.

4. Jesus, Savior, blessed Redeemer—filled with mercy overflowing,  
I'm forgiven without measure—Friend of sinners, glorious King!

## **Speak O Lord**

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory

2. Teach us Lord, full obedience    Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes    in the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail    let their truth prevail over unbelief

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds    help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time    that will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises    and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built    and the earth is filled with Your glory

## **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

### **Chorus:**

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

2. Summer & winter, and springtime & harvest, sun, moon & stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin & a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today & bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

## **The Lord's Prayer,** said by all

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**O**UR 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.

## **Post-Communion Prayer,** said by all

**A**LMIGHTY and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy  
mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of  
your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of  
your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical  
body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs,  
through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask you, heavenly  
Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,  
and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## Gloria in Excelsis

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 Blessing

THE PEACE OF GOD, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven Words: Lyte, 1840    Tune: Lauda anima

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;  
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:  
 praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
 in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.  
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LAW & GOSPEL

Martin Luther wrote that ‘distinguishing between the Law and the Gospel is the highest art ... which every person who values the name Christian ought to possess.’ Luther knew that both the Law and the Gospel came from God, but that they function quite differently. He also believed that when this distinction is misunderstood, people suffer. I fully agree with him.

**WHAT IS THE LAW?** The Law is something specific inside the Bible, but it’s also something broad and experiential. Biblically, the Law was the covenant that God gave to Israel at Mt Sinai. This Law included the 10 Commandments (plus 600 additional rules that went along with them) and it expected a lot of labor: ‘do this and you’ll live!’, it said. If Israel worked hard to be holy, she’d thrive in the Promised Land (an earthly picture of heaven). If Israel failed, she’d be exiled from her homeland. Israel’s Law was conditional, and later Scripture (especially Paul) believed this system was impossible for sinners to keep – especially from the heart! Luther also taught that there was a broad and permeating sense of ‘Law’ that everyone – not only Israelites – experienced. He reasoned that God’s moral order was present everywhere within all Creation, and thus most people have a hunch that they ought to be better than they are. It is due to this ‘hunch’ that we so often conceive of religion as way to climb higher, work harder, and gussy-up our lives so that we’ll be made acceptable. This is a Law-approach to spirituality – legitimacy through labor – and it’s everywhere! It also doesn’t work.

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?** The Gospel is not about our labor under the Law; it’s 100% gift. It’s not something we do, but rather a glad announcement about something beautiful that was done for us. Jesus’s good news is most clearly shown at his sin-bearing cross and in his empty tomb. We are justified – declared to be right with God – by the effective labor of our crucified and risen Christ. Because of him we are forgiven, loved, and belong to God forever. The law and our obedience doesn’t add one bit to it. Oddly enough, this gift of Grace has only one audience – the undeserving and ambivalent sinner – and it alone has the power to change our deep moral tissue. The ever-demanding Law with its moral precepts can neither pardon nor change anyone’s heart toward the good. Paul puts it plainly: ‘I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the Law, then Christ died for nothing’ (Gal. 2:21).

**HOW DO WE RELATE TO THE LAW?** Luther (and Paul!) wants us to know that we are not under Israel’s specific Law-covenant and its threats for disobedience. That contract was fulfilled and over when Jesus established the New Covenant through his blood. But Luther taught that Christians can still benefit from the moral teachings of that Law in 3 ways. **First**, the Law clarifies God’s good order in Creation which was made for human thriving. **Second**, the Law unveils our sin (like a shiny mirror that reveals a garish blemish). **Third**, the Law can even remind us of the Gospel, and here’s how: when Luther read the 10 Commandments, and he did every day, he would first hear them as accusation. Take, for example, ‘You shall have no other gods before me.’ It can easily be read *accusingly* (that is, ‘Martin, you certainly have false gods in your life, you wayward idolater, so get rid of them all, now!’). But that same commandment can also be read as promise (that is, ‘Martin, God vowed to make you into a new creation and one day he’ll finish the job - *you shall*, in fact, have no other gods before Him! *You shall be fully healed!*’).

Luther would have a rage-fit if he heard what is often expressed today; namely, that a person converts to Christ through faith in the Gospel but then leaves the Gospel behind in order to grow by climbing the ladder of the Law. Many so-called Christian sermons focus mostly upon what we ought to do (i.e. the Law): be more moral, vote differently, try more tactics, eat more kale, be more inclusive, etc. Luther would yell, ‘*Nein!* The Christian needs the Gospel even more than morals!’ We grow in love and ethical metamorphosis by returning to the core – which is the crucified and risen Jesus. The gospel alone causes growth.



## OUR VISION

WHERE THE GOSPEL  
IS THE MAIN THING  
IN EVERYTHING.

## OUR VALUES

### We PROCLAIM

- We preach the Gospel “as of first importance” from God’s Word (I Cor. 15).
- We proclaim Good News through the two Sacraments of Baptism and Communion, and are governed by the *Book of Common Prayer* and the *39 Articles of Religion*.
- We engage adults, children and teens, and Grove City College students with warm, imaginative, accessible opportunities to encounter and understand Jesus.

### We BOND

- We worship together on Sundays as the heart and hub of parish life.
- We fellowship in small groups to deepen bonds in the Body of Christ.
- We cultivate hospitality to care for one another in the varied seasons of life.

### We TRAIN

- We help people of all ages to form life-long patterns of Scripture-study, prayer, service, and other biblical practices that cultivate us as disciples of Jesus.
- We identify, equip, and multiply lay-leaders.
- We identify and nurture future and clergy and missionaries.

### We SEND

- We equip disciples to compassionately carry the Good News to campus, neighborhood, workplace, region, and world-wide mission fields.
- We creatively work to build loving, relational bridges with our neighbors.
- We resource other churches & missions with theological, financial, & personal assets.

## GLOSSARY.

-**39 Articles:** It’s the Anglican statement of faith. It’s brief and great. Google it!

-**Sacrament:** A Sacrament has 3 parts: 1. An outward and visible sign of 2. an inward grace, 3. ordained by Christ. There are two of these signs that fit all 3 criteria, and they are baptism and Communion.

-**Gospel:** Paul defines the Gospel in I Cor 15 as the death and resurrection of Jesus that forgives our sins and renews the world.

# GRACE'S STAFF

**RECTOR.** The Rev'd Ethan Magness is lead-minister at Grace, the principal preacher and teacher, who plans and coordinates worship, leads the staff, offers pastoral care and counsel, marriages, burials, etc. (emagness@graceanglicanonline.com)

**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES.** Mr. Steve Matson creates, develops, and oversees ministries related to children, youth, and their families; and assists with pastoral care. (smatson@graceanglicanonline.com)

**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COLLEGE MINISTRY.** The Rev'd Cn. Dr Don Shepson has a part-time role with our college students, leads Bible studies, does pastoral care, preaches, etc. (dshepson@graceanglicanonline.com)

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR.** Gabby Kucks serves as our parish administrator, organizing and training volunteers and keeping the parish schedule, prints bulletins, and keeps the parish calendar. (gkucks@graceanglicanonline.com)

**CELL GROUP OVERSIGHT.** The Rev'd Chad Lawrence oversees our cell group ministry,

as well as preaches and assists with worship (clawrence@graceanglicanonline.com).

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY & HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR.** Melissa Cowan leads, oversees, and develops ministries for women, parish hospitality, and new-comer integration. (mcowan@graceanglicanonline.com)

**MUSICIAN.** Bethany Mayo coordinates, trains, and rehearses with the music team, and leads our music (bmayo@graceanglicanonline.com)

**LIVE-STREAM & AUDIO TECH.** Matt Barber runs our live-streaming services. (ink\_well2004@yahoo.com)

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR.** Kristen Schools serves part time and helps lead the children's ministry and events. (kschools@graceanglicanonline.com ).

**BOOKKEEPER.** Dede Wishing keeps our books and makes sure that our finances are in order. bookkeeper@graceanglicanonline.com.

## GRACE'S VESTRY

Randy Welker

Cindy Marsch (Secretary)

Rob Mueller (Junior Warden)

Chris Franklin

Ken Smith (Sr Warden)

Kristina Pazehoski

Sarah Potter

**\*Treasurer (non-vestry):** Jon Graeser

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