

# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Greeley, CO

[www.greeleylutheran.org](http://www.greeleylutheran.org)

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 7, 2022 – 8:15 & 10:40 A.M.

*We rejoice in your presence with us today at this service of Holy Communion.*

*Please silence cell phones and pagers during worship.*

*ELW = red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP hymnal  
Hymn numbers (#) refer to the main hymn section  
The congregation's response is printed in **BOLD type***

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*Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

## GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC (8:15)

PRELUDE (10:40)

"He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!"

arr. David Cherwien

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

\*SONG (8:15)

"Let Us Go Now to the Banquet"

insert

\*HYMN (10:40)

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

ELW # 771

### \*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.

Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you  
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

READING

Genesis 15:1-6

James Wickland / Kathy Cowan

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 33:12-22 (*read responsively with leader*)

NEW LIVING translation

<sup>12</sup>What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD,  
whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks down from heaven  
and sees the whole human race.**

<sup>14</sup>From his throne he observes  
all who live on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**He made their hearts,  
so he understands everything they do.**

<sup>16</sup>The best-equipped army cannot save a king,  
nor is great strength enough to save a warrior.

<sup>17</sup>**Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—  
for all its strength, it cannot save you.**

<sup>18</sup>But the LORD watches over those who fear him,  
those who rely on his unfailing love.

<sup>19</sup>**He rescues them from death  
and keeps them alive in times of famine.**

<sup>20</sup>We put our hope in the LORD.  
He is our help and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD,  
for our hope is in you alone.

\*GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

*Response after the announcement: "Glory to you, O Lord!"*

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Response after the reading: "Praise to you, O Christ!"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON  
*Silence for reflection*

“Having a Growing Faith”

Pastor John Knutson

\*SONG / HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

insert / ELW # 638

\*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS (*each petition concludes:*)

... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Prayers for healing and strength for: Janette Howell*

*Prayers of sympathy for the family of: Jean Frisbie*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

OFFERING / PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:**

**our selves, our time, and our possessions.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,**

**through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\*LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Communion is open to all who receive it as the presence of Christ. Directions will be given as to how communion will be distributed. For those who wish to abstain from alcohol, white grape juice is available in the center cups. Gluten-free wafers are available by mentioning your preference to the pastor or server. Children and adults not communing may receive a blessing instead.*

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC: (8:15) “Beneath the Cross”  
(10:40) “Lamb of God”

insert  
ELW # 195

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

**SENDING**

\*BLESSING (response: **"Amen!"**)

\*SENDING SONG (8:15)

"From Jerusalem"

\*SENDING HYMN (10:40)

"The God of Abraham Praise" (stanzas 1-3, 8)

insert  
ELW # 831

\*ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL (response: **"Thanks be to God!"**)

\*POSTLUDE (10:40)

Postlude in G Major

G. F. Handel

*Thank you for helping stack chairs and clear the courtyard!  
Chairs in the Fellowship Hall can remain in position.*

**Please contact the church office at 970-352-4816 if you have specific needs  
or prayer requests, or if you can help in any way.**

Assisting in worship

Pastor: Rev. John Knutson  
vocalists: Amie Cieminski (8:15)  
bass: Mike Adams  
Minister of Music: Dennis Larson  
Sound technician: Grey Conderman  
Projection: Thomas Vilfroy / Aydan Young  
video production: Joshua Matthews / Scott Young

Communion assistants: (8:15) Cindy Ververs, James Wickland,  
Michelle Weymouth  
(10:40) Arlene Geary, Claudia Winter  
Ushers: (8:15) Len & Bev Westerkamp  
(10:40) Linda Carey, Nancy Haffner, Arlene  
Geary, Makaila Mansour  
Altar Guild: Susan Vilfroy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Scripture readings next Sunday: Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29–12:2, Luke 12:49-56

**Gather in Grace, Grow in Faith, Serve in Community, Glorify Christ!**