GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 2024 10 AM



Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

VISIT US AT:
WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG
and
on Facebook

Welcome to worship!

Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE Meditation on Adoro Te Devote Alfred Fedak

(Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior)

Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior David Lasky

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand and face the baptismal font near the entrance of the church.

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

- C. Amen.
- P. Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P. Gracious God,
- C. have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but sometimes harm our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us

cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first,

we sometimes make distinctions among ourselves and place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P. God promises to forgive our iniquity

and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus, the Christ,

the source of eternal healing,

your sins are forgiven in the name of the Triune God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.



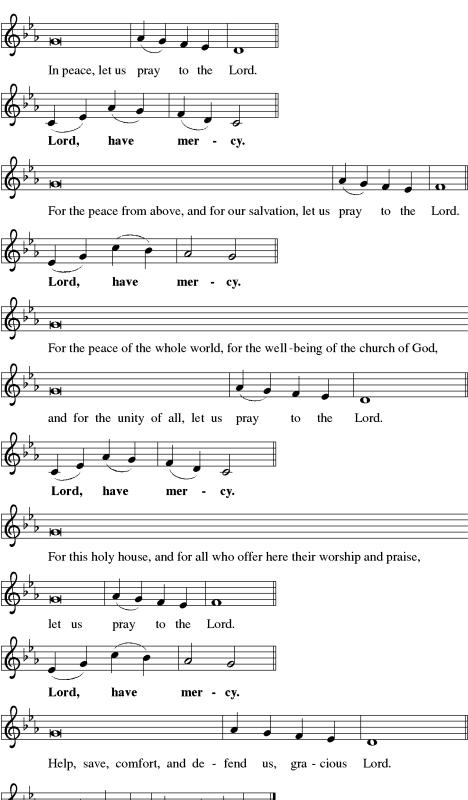
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991 Text © 1979 and Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

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

KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Let us pray:

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

- A. A reading from Jeremiah, the 11th chapter.
 - ¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.
 - ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb

led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me

that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,

let us cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them,

for to you I have committed my cause.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 54 Hal Hopson

REFRAIN: Sung first by the Choir, repeated by ALL thereafter.



Lord, you are my strength;

has-ten to help me.

Copyright 1986 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Psalm Verses are sung responsively to the following tone.



Psalm tone reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year C \otimes 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Save me, O God, ^I by your name; in your might, de- ^I fend my cause.

²Hear my | prayer, O God; give ear to the words | of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have I sought my life, those who have no re- I gard for God.

⁴Behold, God ¹ is my helper;

it is the Lord who sus- $^{\mid}$ tains my life. REFRAIN

⁵Render evil to those who ^I spy on me; in your faithful- ^I ness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a ¹ freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for ¹ it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from I every trouble, and my eye looks down I on my enemies. *REFRAIN*

SECOND READING James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

A. A reading from James, the 3rd chapter.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir Verse



God has called us through the proclamation of I the good news,* that we may obtain the glory of our Lord I Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

- P. The Holy Gospel According to Mark, the 9th chapter.
- C. Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

- P. The Gospel of the Lord.
- C. Praise to you, O Christ.

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.



Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi sion, till your love's re veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor ship to your ser vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed: still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart; As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole. stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share. that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

P. Esparanza Granada, Yudi Romero, Leslie Martinez, and Emmaly Rodriques have been baptized into the Christian faith and desire to join the fellowship at Grace to be with us in worshiping God, hearing God's Word, and sharing in the Lord's Supper, proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

Let us pray: We thank you Lord for Esparanza, Yudi, Leslie, and Emmaly. By your life-giving power, bind all of us to each other in you. Strengthen us for service. Support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be all-in-all. We pray this in Jesus' name. **C. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kaitlin Shinholster

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation that has guided Leslie Martinez as she receives First Holy Communion today and Leslie and her family as members at Grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere as they live out their calling to serve.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism, generational poverty, and those being persecuted for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the Gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

- P. We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C. Amen.

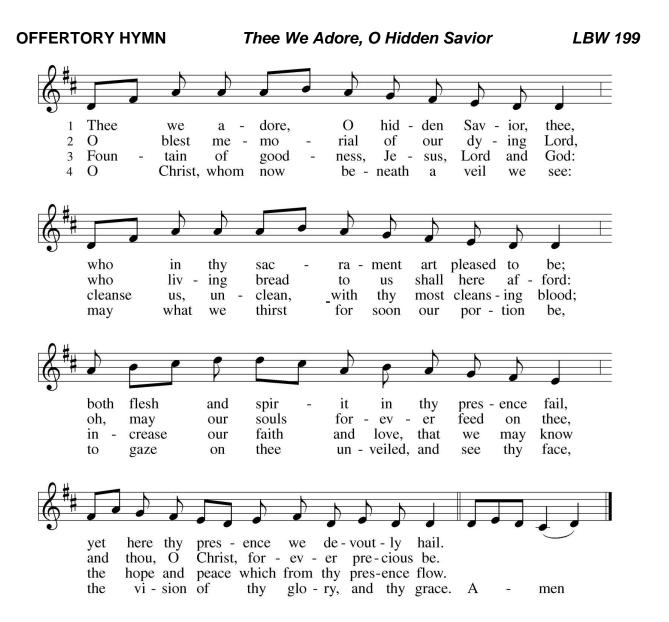
PEACE Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

- P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.



Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227–1274; tr. James R. Woodford, 1820–1885 Music: ADORO TE DEVOTE, mode V; *Processionale*, Paris, 1697

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C. And also with you.

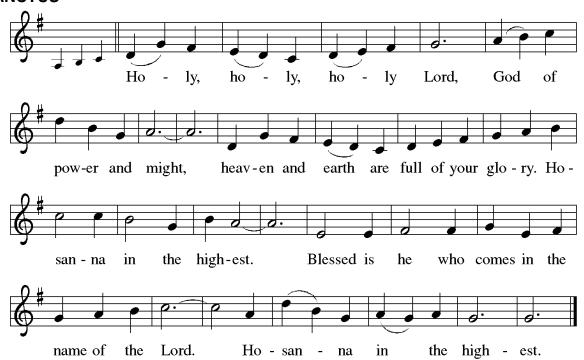
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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

THE PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or be seated.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, Blessed and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, And gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the mystery of faith;

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Pour out upon us and this bread and cup the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever.

C. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:
- C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

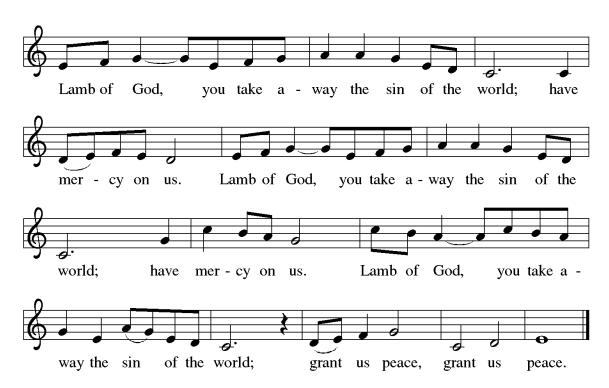
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come. Receive what Christ is offering.



AGNUS DEI





TODAY LESLIE JAZMIN MARTINEZ WILL RECEIVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.

The center contains purple grape juice.

White wine is in the remainder of the tray.

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

- P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray:

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

P. God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit..

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

SENDING HYMN O Living Bread from Heaven LBW 197 liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest! My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place, want - ed; this food can death de - stroy. You gave me all I Lord, grant me then, thus strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with The here your-self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace; And you have free - ly grant - ed cup of end - less the joy. my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear. Oh. won-drous food of bless - ing, oh, that heals our woes! cup earth could nev - er you have free - ly giv - en what My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown, leave this world be - low, And when you call my spir - it to My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, with prais - es o - ver - flows!

from heav - en, that

en - ter, through your mer - it, where joys un - min-gled

now

and spir - it bow down be - fore your

I shall not

throne.

flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1606–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

life

soul

bread of

all my

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C. Thanks be to God.

the and

POSTLUDE Concerto del Sigr. Vivaldi Johann Gottfried Walther 3. Allegro



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

TODAY Leslie Jazmin Martinez Will receive her First Holy Communion



TO THE GRACE FAMILY! New Members:

Esparanza Granada Yudi L. Romero Leslie J.Martinez Emmaly Rodriques



After Mass Today

Please Welcome New Members in the Memorial Room.



Via Zoom Thursday, September 26th, at Noon

Connection link & Reading will be emailed

PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Carol Weber; Carol's family: Doris Baumann, Darla Lambson (leukemia); Brad Gohmann (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: Donald Lazlear and his family, Katie and Surella Borowski; Rose Davis (cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Anne Marie Soto (Lynn's friend, home in hospice with pancreatic cancer); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends Arlene Rizzo (cancer) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (health concerns); Caleb (mental health issues); Jenny L. (health issues); Carol Mulvaney (breast cancer); Michael Mulvaney (prostate cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: Jason and Paul Thalmann: Beverly Philip (severe dementia), Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz (health concerns), Michele Rusciano; Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Anita and Harold Bontekoe (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever: Dominick Capalba (6 year old with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents – memory care); John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: Kevin (cancer), Doris Feirer, Arouss Darpinian (health concerns); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); **Dennis Keohane** (Catherine's uncle); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); Donna Maxwell, James Mingo (Donna's grandson - health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); Mary Sue Kaplow (health concerns); (baby) Hannah Muñiz (a hospice patient where Jack works); Chris & Sara (parents-to-be) and **Dominick** (Donna Gentile's unborn great-nephew); **Paul Whelan**, Evan Gershkovich, and Alsu Kurmasheva (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Donna Maxwell, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Kaitlin Shinholster, Prayers of Intercession
Janet Thalmann & Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Michael and All Angels Sunday, September 29, 2024

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420 Monday, September 30, 2024

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24091. Copyrighted elements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies under License # SAS004091. *New Revised Standard Version Bible,* copyright 1989. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.