

# The Installation of The Rev. Alexander C. Zuber

September 20, 2026



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

500 South Wayne Ave. Waynesboro, VA 22980  
[www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org](http://www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org)



## SERVICE OF THE WORD AND HOLY COMMUNION

Based on Now the Feast and Celebration.

Congregational responses are in bold print.

### WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. We love welcoming guests/visitors and encourage you to complete one of the blue “Welcome to Grace” cards found in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or scan this QR Code with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. You are encouraged to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet. All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this bulletin. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken by the whole congregation.



*Continued*

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

We want to ensure that all who gather for worship feel welcome and know that you have a place at Grace, just as you are. We stand for portions of our worship service, but the invitation is always to stand “as you are comfortable”. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer. Additionally, for a variety of reasons, individuals may choose to participate in communion by using Gluten Free Communion Wafers and/or Grape Juice, which are available.

## **OUR WORSHIP**

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God’s constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary (a three-year cycle of scripture readings appointed for each day), we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

## **WORSHIP WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.**

Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with our live-stream allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the Sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex Zuber.

## **OTHER NOTES:**

**RESTROOMS** are located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

## **CHILDREN ARE FULLY WELCOME IN WORSHIP.**

There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary, to the right as you face the rear of the church, and we have a nursery down the hall to the left as you face the rear of the church if you would like a place to step out and reset. **The nursery will be staffed.** But rest assured, we would rather a child be here making the sounds that children make than absent from our community. As much as we value music in our community; there is no sweeter hymn that will be sung than the sounds of children being present, learning the pattern of worship, and hearing the gospel.

# GATHERING

*We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness, our gratitude for the gift of Baptism.*

**BRASS PRELUDE:** *Two Chorale Preludes for Brass by J. S. Bach*  
*"Salvation is Created"*

**Tchesnikov/Arr. Fauber**

**WELCOME**

**CHORAL INTROIT:** *"Lift High the Cross"*

**Arr. Hopson**

## Congregation, Choir and Brass

Refrain: Choir and Congregation



Stanzas



Choir 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears

Choir 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your

Choir and Cong. 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise



on the \_\_\_\_\_ brow the seal of Christ who died.

death has \_\_\_\_\_ brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.

to the \_\_\_\_\_ Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*We stand and face the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. For the South, North, and Middle Rivers; for the Shenandoah and Potomac; and the Chesapeake Bay, we give you praise and thanks.

**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



Andrew Fauber, Guitar

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.*

## Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WORD

*The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.*

## FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-12

A reading from Exodus:

<sup>1</sup> Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

*Continued*

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

<sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:** *“Great and Awesome God” (Anthem Lyrics Page 27)*  
**Percussion by Brass Musicians**  
**Caroline Biggers, Flute**  
**Ezra Flaherty, Violin**

**Mark Hayes**

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-11**

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God’s coworkers, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Let each builder choose with care how to

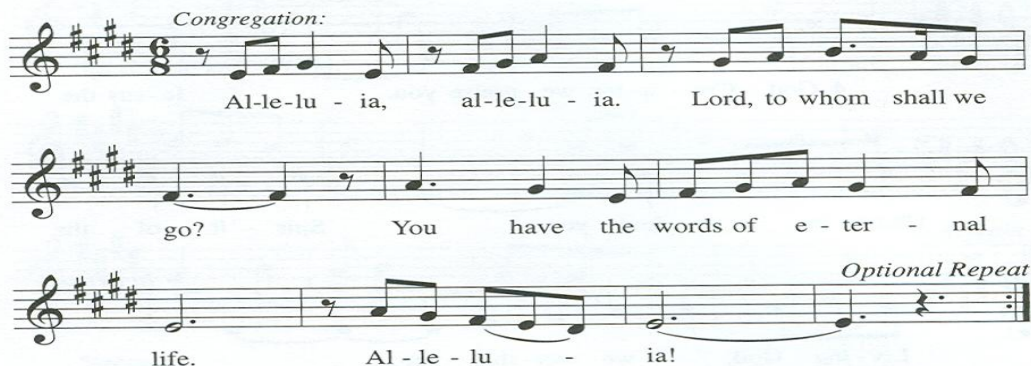
***Continued***

build on it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*We stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "In Christ Called to Baptize"

ELW #575

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace  
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,  
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach  
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.  
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.  
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.  
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,  
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.  
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise  
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.  
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.  
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.  
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

## APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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**

The  
Apostles'  
+ Creed +

# INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND ALEXANDER C. ZUBER

## PRESENTATION

*The assembly stands. The pastor being installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Having been authorized by the church to install The Reverend Alexander C. Zuber, our co-worker in the gospel as Pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

*A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.*

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, have called The Reverend Alexander C. Zuber to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Pastor.

I present Alex and this letter certifying the call.

*The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted.*

*The representative moves aside, and the assembly is seated.*

## ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

*Colleagues will address the minister of word and sacrament.*

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the

*Continued*

laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

*The presiding minister addresses questions to the minister of word and sacrament.*

Alexander, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?

Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, will you receive Alexander as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for him?

Will you help and honor him in carrying out this ministry?

In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.*

Alexander, the office of Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM: "Let All the People Say Amen" (Anthem Lyrics Page 28)**

**Pepper Choplin**

**Mike Trauscht, Soloist**

**Percussion by Brass Musicians**

*The pastor stands. The following procession to the places of the word and sacraments may be used.*

*The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the place of baptism.  
A representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

***Continued***

*They proceed to the place of the word. A representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

*They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's Supper.

*The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.*

People of God, I present to you Pastor Alex Zuber, your Pastor.

Let us welcome Pastor Alex in the name of Christ.

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

## PRAYERS

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition:*

... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*The Assisting Minister concludes the prayers:*

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## MEAL

*In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus' invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.*

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also, with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace,  
using these or similar words:  
"Peace be with you."*

*We sit.*

### SPECIAL OFFERING



A special offering is gathered tonight to support the work of our community partner, **HERO of Waynesboro**. HERO is the "Housing Emergency Relief Organization" committed to providing emergency financial assistance to our Waynesboro neighbors to promote community stability and prevent homelessness. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle, and all cash or checks gathered during tonight's service will be given directly to HERO. If you give electronically, you can use the QR Code on this page to make your gift online through Tithely, and select the HERO of Waynesboro option from the drop-down menu.



**OFFERTORY:** "God Has Called Us" (Anthem Lyrics Page 29)  
**Choir and Brass**

**Robert Hobby**

*We stand.*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE – AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

### Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

### Verses



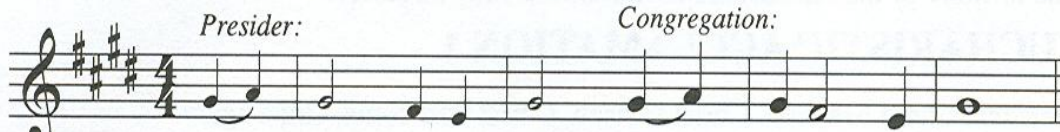
1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
to Refrain  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, you abide with your creation and in Jesus Christ, you gather us at your table. As you stayed with your disciples for an evening meal, so now stay with us. As we receive these gifts of bread and wine, open our hearts to share what we have received, the abiding love of Jesus, our risen Savior.  
Amen.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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:

# HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.

*Continued*

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
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 his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**  
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen!**  
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
O God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Our  
Father**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## HOLY COMMUNION

***We sit.***

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997).*

***Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle in two lines. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you. There will be a station where you will be offered bread, and gluten free wafers will be available by request. Communion assistants will have trays with pre-filled glasses with wine at the first station, and Grape juice at***

***Continued***

**the next station. You may partake of whichever you prefer. As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:**

**“The body of Christ, given for you... The blood of Christ, shed for you.”**

**You may say: “Amen”**

**Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your seat via the side aisle.**

## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*



world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy      on      us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of the world:      grant us peace,



grant us peace,      grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC: "Prayer of St. Francis" (Anthem Lyrics Page 30)  
Bethanie Glover, Soloist

Allen Pote

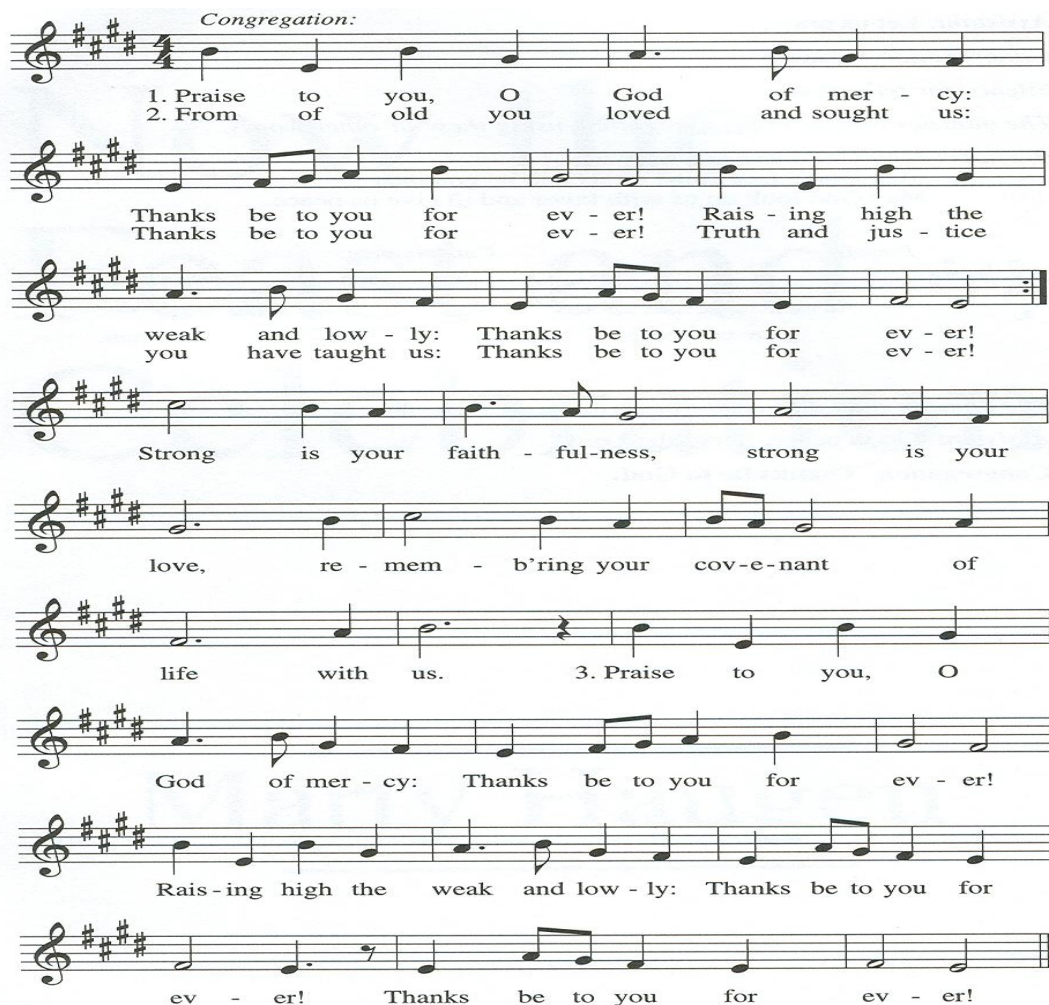
*We stand.*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – THANKS BE TO YOU

*Congregation:*



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice  
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your  
love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of  
life with us. 3. Praise to you, O  
God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for  
ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.  
Amen.

## SENDING

*Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation"

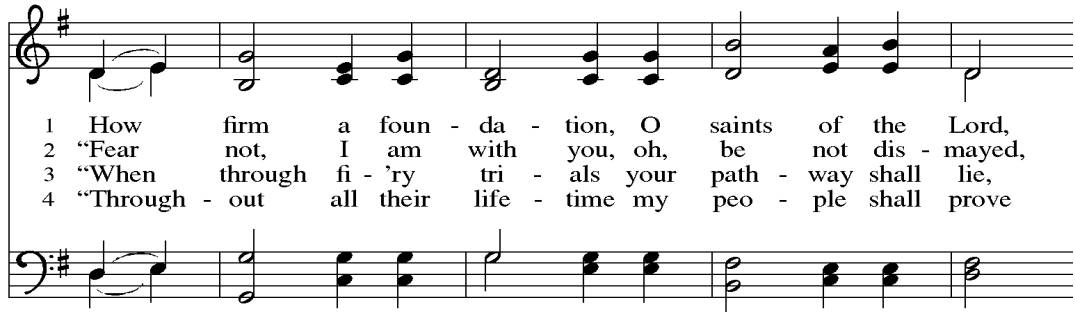
ELW #796

Kenneth Koesche

**Congregation Sings Melody on Verses 1, 3 & 4, Choir only on Verse 2 and Brass**



# How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *“Luther’s Evening Prayer” (Anthem Lyrics Page 31)*

**John Behnke**

**Choir**

**DISMISSAL**

As the Spirit sends us forth into the world, let us remember who we are:

**We are A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus.**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *“Earth and All Stars”*

**Arr. Fauber**

**Brass Quintet**



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## ***“Great and Awesome God”***

This is a day of celebration. This is a day to praise.  
Almighty God who loves and sustains us, faithful in ev'ry way.  
Lord, we join with Your people down through the ages  
Your mighty deeds to share.  
You have been faithful to all generations. This truth we now declare:  
You are a great and awesome God. Your wonders we proclaim.  
You are our Rock, our Strength, our Shield, from age to age the same.  
You forgive us all our sins. You transform us with your love.  
With joyful, grateful hearts we sing, You are a great and awesome God!

This is a day of celebration. This is a time to rejoice.  
This is the day to look to the future and give our dreams a voice.  
With courage and faith, we are running the race.  
We are reaching for the prize.  
Our hope is to be found worthy of our calling in Jesus Christ.  
We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.  
Called from darkness into light, so we must testify.  
You are a great and awesome God. Your wonders we proclaim.  
You are our Rock, our Strength, our Shield, from age to age the same.  
You forgive us all our sins. You transform us with your love.  
With joyful, grateful hearts we sing, You are a great and awesome God!

### ***“Let All the People Say Amen”***

Let all the people say “Amen”. Let all the people say “Amen”.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let your will be done again.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let all the people say “Amen”.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let your will be done again  
Let your will be done again.

Shout unto God with a voice of triumph, triumph in the victory of the Lord, strong and mighty, the  
everlasting God and the King of Kings.

Shout to God with a voice of triumph and clap your hands for the  
Lord God is awesome and He is King over all the earth,  
The King over all the earth.

Let all the people say “Amen”. Let all the people say “Amen”.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let your will be done again.  
Let your will be done again.

Shout unto God with a voice of triumph, triumph in the victory of the  
Lord, strong and mighty, the everlasting God and the King of Kings.  
Shout to God with a voice of triumph, and clap your hands for the  
Lord God is awesome and He is King over all the earth,  
The King over all the earth.

Let all the people say “Amen”. Let all the people say “Amen”.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let your will be done again.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let all the people say “Amen”.  
Let all the people say “Amen”. Let your will be done again.  
Let your will be done again. Let all the people say “Amen”. “Amen”.

***“God Has Called Us”***

God has called us: and how can we but raise our voices,  
Echoing God’s praise?

God has called us: and let us answer with our lives.

God has changed us: and how can we but live as servants  
Of the Spirit’s gift?

God has changed us: and let us worship with our lives.

God has charged us: and how can we but ask for wisdom  
For the Christly task?

God has charged us: and let us labor with our lives.

God has called us: and how can we but raise our voices,  
Echoing God’s praise?

God has called us: and let us answer with our lives.

Let us answer with our lives!



### ***“Prayer of St. Francis”***

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.  
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there's despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let there be light,  
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console.  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
An instrument of thy peace. Amen.



**St. Francis**

### ***“Luther’s Evening Prayer”***

I thank you, my heav’nly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear son,  
That You have kept me this day.

I pray that You forgive me for all the wrong that I have done this day.  
For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things.

Let Your holy angel be with me,  
That the evil foe may have no power over me.

I thank you, my heav’nly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear son,  
That You have kept me this day.

I pray that You forgive me for all the wrong that I have done this day.  
Keep me this night. Amen.



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

**Presiding Minister:** The Reverend Wesley Smith

**Preaching:** The Reverend Mark Radecke

**Acolyte:** Libby Caister

**Altar Flowers:** The Martin Family

**Altar Guild:** Jean Morgan

**Assisting Minister:** Mike Trauscht

**Communion Assistants:** Cathy Crowder, Robin Crowder, Carolyn Hite,  
Linda Meyer, Andrew Sell and Kate Van Bremen

**Council Person of Week:** River Smith

**Crucifer:** Libby Caister

**Offering Stewards:** David Proctor

**Ushers:** Rick Bump, Jack Eckstrom, Gail Johnson and Jim Nelson

**Verger:** Donna Gum

## ***WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSICIANS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:***

Andrew Fauber, Trumpet, Guitar, Percussion

Matt Baraclough, Trumpet, Percussion

Pete Echols, Trombone, Percussion

Jake Cuppernull, Trombone, Percussion

Gordon Roberts, Tuba, Percussion

Adam Phillips, Choral Music

Russell Blackburn, Choral Music

Ezra Flaherty, Violin

Caroline Biggers, Flute

Our Friends from First Baptist Church



## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP...

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** ✝ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled. Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace

**GATHERING HYMN:** We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship and this hymn sets the tone for the day.

**KYRIE:** The Kyrie is an ancient piece of service liturgy that may date back to the second century. Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord have mercy" and is in reference to both New and Old Testament scriptures which use the same words and pattern.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** The Prayer of the Day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

**READINGS AND PSALM:** Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators. The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts. The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith. We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

**NICENE & APOSTLES' CREEDS:** The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true. The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" means simply worldwide or universal.

**PRAYERS:** We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/ her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

**PEACE:** Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

*Continued*

**OFFERING:** Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

**OFFERING SONG:** This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:** The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture: 1Cor. 11:23-26, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

**COMMUNION:** The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense. All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

**BLESSING:** In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel. It reaffirms our mission and reminds us that if we are to be a Wellspring of Grace, we need to be renewed first through Water, Word, and Meal — the means of grace God has given to us.

*Worship*



Pastor Alex Zuber was called to serve as the 21<sup>st</sup> pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in the summer of 2026. He is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and James Madison University, where he majored in Public Health Education. Since his ordination in 2017, he has served across the Virginia Synod ELCA, previously at the Stony Man Lutheran Parish in Luray, as interim pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lexington, and for 7 years at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg. Pastor Alex approaches ministry by saying, *“I am called to practice hope where it feels impossible – in hospital rooms, waiting seasons, weary corners of communities, anxious questions, and ordinary days. I follow Jesus, trusting that God’s grace is wider than human categories and that faith is often practiced in small, loving acts of service.”*

Pastor Alex’s greatest joy is being dad to Nadia, and in his free time, he loves funny TV shows, good audiobooks, watching sports, and playing cornet in the Massanutten Brass Band. These days, you’ll find him outside birdwatching, or running the grill, where he’s always happy to talk about Star Wars, marching band, and other nerdy things! He’s a self-described “big nerd” who loves to dive deep into great stories and great music, and to reflect on how they shine a light on important truths in the world around us.

## **GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL**

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Jim Nelson (434-826-8923), Vice-President  
Linda Meyer (540-256-2277), Secretary  
Peggy Caister (434-964-7461)  
Gail Johnson (540-241-4502)  
Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)  
River Smith (540-239-5290)  
Kate Van Bremen (614-746-4792)  
BK Wilson (540-325-9529)  
Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)  
Ron Almarode, Treasurer  
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



## **GRACE CHURCH STAFF**

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### **Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music**

Email: [mickhdking@aol.com](mailto:mickhdking@aol.com)

### **Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary**

Email: [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto:Grace.lc@comcast.net)

**Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Closed 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, Closed Friday**

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