

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 13, 2025

10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

901 EAST STROOP ROAD

KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688

(937)298-0136

## INTRODUCTION

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

## WHO ARE YOU?

Who do you identify with in the parable? This is part of what makes parables so powerful. Some days we read the story through the eyes of the priest or the Levite. Some days we feel like the Samaritan. And then there are those days when we are the man in the ditch. Some days you are the windshield and some days you are the bug, as the saying goes.

It is easy to miss the shocking nature of this parable if we start to think that this story only teaches us to imitate the Samaritan. The parable says so much more about God, our relationship to God, and the lengths to which God will go to reach out to us.

Through the image of the Samaritan, Jesus lifts up a surprising rescuer as an image of the God who relentlessly cares for those in need. Could it be that we are meant to identify not with the Samaritan or even the lawyer to whom Jesus speaks the parable, but rather with the man who is hopeless and left for dead? Could it be that Christ is the good Samaritan who embraces us with the tender compassion of God?

All of the sudden the parable is turned on its head. Jesus is not just giving us a comfortable morality tale reminding us to be nice, helpful, generous people. Instead Jesus is proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. God's grace comes to us through the cross. God's grace comes to us even—and especially—when we are at our worst, when we struggle in the depths and cry out for help. Even when we cannot or will not cry out, mercy and grace come into our lives through Jesus. So whether you are on the road or in the ditch, Jesus even now is coming for you.

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*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Judy Treadway*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

"I Love You, Lord"

F<sup>2</sup> Gm/F F

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to

B<sup>b</sup> F/A Gm<sup>7</sup> F/A C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> C B<sup>b</sup>/D C/E

wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take

F<sup>2</sup> Gm/F F F<sup>7</sup>

joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a

B<sup>b</sup> F/A F<sub>sus</sub>/G C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sup>2</sup>/F F<sup>2</sup>

sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

## \*\* OPENING LITANY

We come with willing hearts and eager minds.

**Lead us in your truth,  
O God of our salvation!**

We come in our weakness and wander.

**Teach us your ways,  
O God of our salvation!**

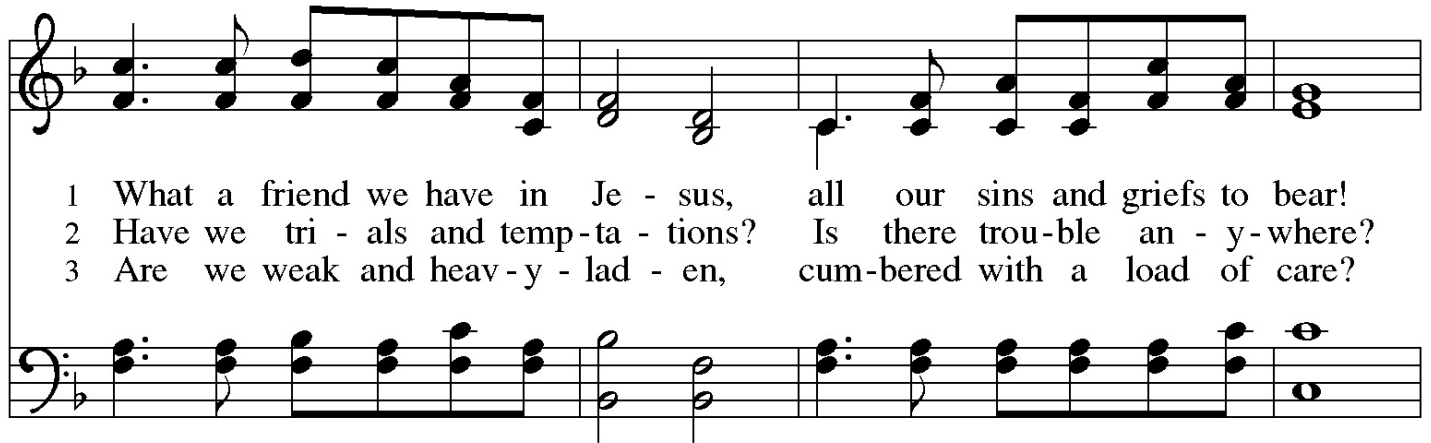
We come seeking the path of justice.

**We are ready to follow,  
O God of our salvation!**

## \*\* GATHERING SONGS.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

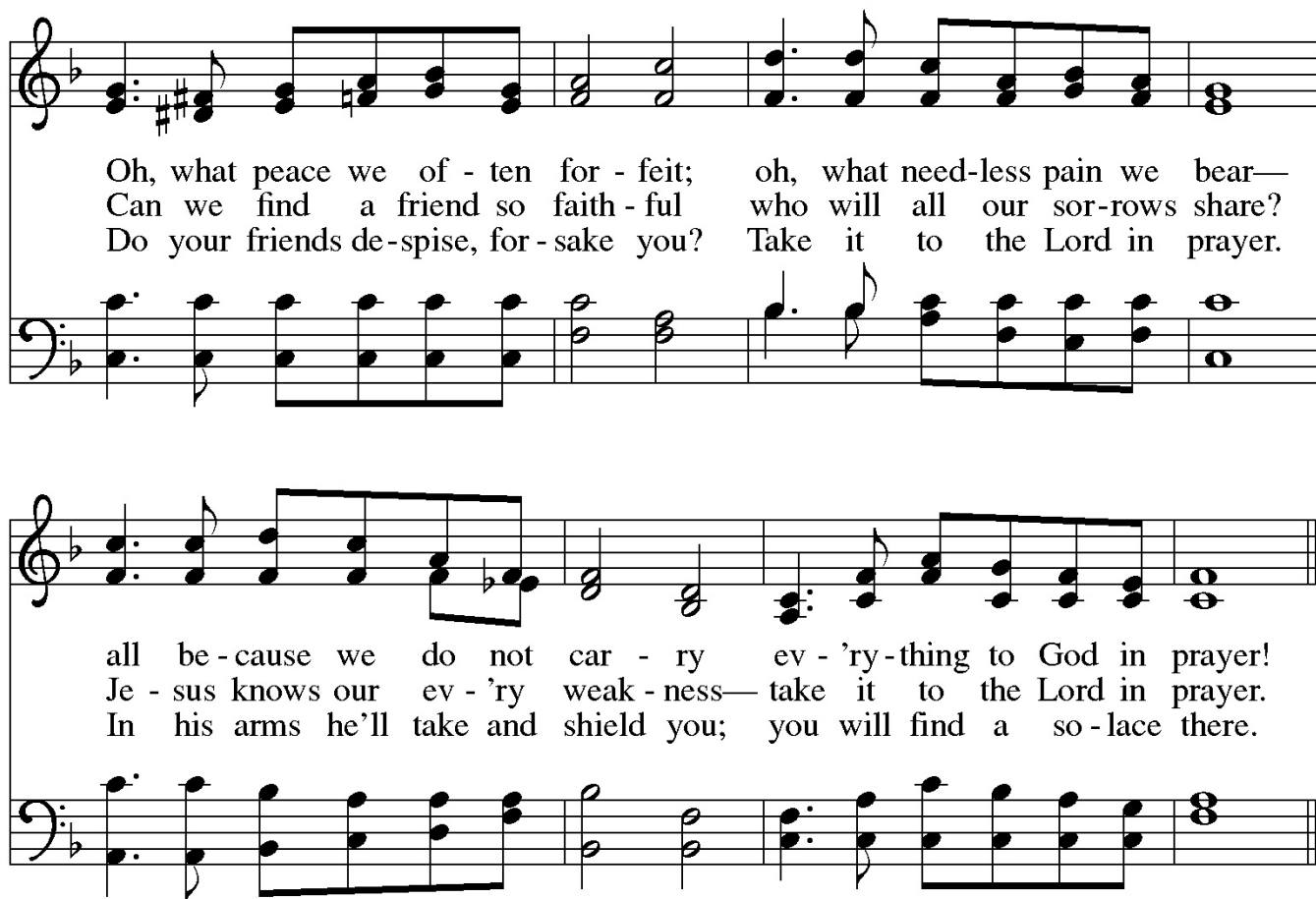
*From the survey of favorite hymns.*



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?  
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

### "Jesus, Son of God"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You came down from heaven's throne  
 This earth you formed was not your home  
 A love like this the world had never known.  
 A crown of thorns to mock your name.  
 Forgiveness fell upon your face.  
 A love like this the world had never known.

**(Refrain - All)**

**On the altar of our praise,  
 Let there be no higher name:  
 Jesus, Son of God.**

**You laid down your perfect life  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**You took our sin, you bore our shame,  
You rose to life, you defeated the grave,  
And a love like this the world has never known.  
'Cause you took our sin, you bore our shame,  
You rose to life, you defeated the grave  
A love like this the world has never known.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**(Music Ministers)**  
Be lifted higher than  
All you've overcome.  
Your name be louder  
Than any other song  
There is no power  
That can come against your love.  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough.

**(All)**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.**

**You laid down your perfect life.  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life.  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**Be lifted higher than  
All you've overcome.  
Your name be louder  
Than any other song  
There is no power  
That can come against your love.  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough.**

# "Amazing Love"

C Dm<sup>7</sup> Gsus G

1 My Lord, what love is this that pays so  
 2 And so they watched him die, de - spised, re -  
 3 And now this love of Christ shall flow like

Csus C G C Dm<sup>7</sup> F/G G C

dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one, may go free?  
 ject - ed; but, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.  
 riv - ers; come, wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain.

*Refrain* Gm<sup>7</sup> C Eb

A - maz - ing love, oh, what sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for

G Gm<sup>7</sup> C

me; my debt he pays and my death he dies, that

Gm<sup>7</sup> C Gm<sup>7</sup> C

I might live, that I might live.



**\*\* CONFESSION**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

**\*\* FORGIVENESS**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✙ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, **your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalms 25:1-10

*Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)*

To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,  
O Lord.

**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## **SECOND READING**

Colossians 1:1-14

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

A reading from Colossians.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Luke 10:25-37

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

*Pastor Bob Swanson*

### **\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended into hell.  
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.

## **\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Assisting Minister*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes:*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* 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.**

## **\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

## **COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

## **\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assisting Minister*

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us

all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **\*\* BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **\*\* SENDING HYMN**

“Your Grace Is Enough”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Great is your faithfulness, O God;  
You wrestle with the sinner’s restless heart.  
You lead us by still waters into mercy,  
And nothing can keep us apart.  
So remember your people,  
Remember your children,  
Remember your promise, O God.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers/**All**)

Great is your love and justice, God;  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of your salvation,  
And all your people sing along.  
**So remember your people,  
Remember your children,  
Remember your promise, O God.**

(Refrain - **All**)

**Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,**



**Your grace is enough for me.**

**Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.**

**(All)**

**Remember your people,  
Remember your children,  
Remember your promise, O God.**

**Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.**

**(All/Music Ministers)**

**Your grace is enough;  
Heaven reaches out to us.  
Your grace is enough for me.**

**Your grace is enough;  
I'm covered in your love.  
Your grace is enough for me.**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the spirit.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,**

**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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# Upcoming Commemorations

## **Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.