



Holy Communion
With the
Ordination of Jesse Marie Hershberger to the
Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Grace Lutheran Church
Des Moines, IA
November 8, 2025 · 1 pm

Throughout the service, you may be invited to rise in body or in spirit. Please know that you are welcome to sit, stand, or move around at any point as your body needs.

Prelude Setting of the gathering hymn “How Firm A Foundation”
American folk melody arranged by W. Held

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn “How Firm a Foundation” ELW #796

Greeting

L: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



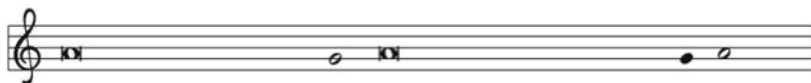
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Kyrie

"Lord have mercy" is a translation of the ancient Greek "Kyrie Eleison"

(pronounced KEE-ree-yay e-LAY-son) which is an ancient prayer sung in response to the forgiveness of sins.

The Kyrie is not asking forgiveness: rather it is sung in awe of Christ Jesus who has overcome sin and death.

The Hymn of Praise

One of two hymns of praise are generally sung after the Kyrie. The hymns, "Glory to God in the highest" and "This is the feast of victory," give the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because Jesus is our victorious Savior. "Glory to God in the highest," Luke 2:14; "This is the feast of victory," Revelation. 5:12

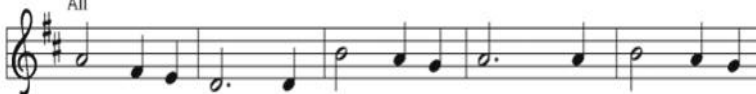
Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



The Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that Jesse, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-12

^{3:1} 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. ² 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. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ 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." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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, ⁸ 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.

⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen

how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² 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.”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

³ Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

Second Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied,

“How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or in spirit

Gospel Acclamation



L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the Sixth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-44

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many

Nicene Creed:

Throughout 2025, Christians around the globe will have the opportunity to reflect on the significance of the ecumenical council that met in Nicaea (in present-day Turkey) in 325 and on the creed that bears its name. That council articulated a particular description of the relationship between Jesus and God, leaving an enduring mark on how a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith is proclaimed up to this very day.

On this 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, ELCA members can learn, listen and, with Christians of nearly every denomination, discern the theological legacy of the Nicene Council and its significance for the future of the universal church.

were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late;³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And all ate and were filled,⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

L: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon: Rev. Michael Schmidt

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”
ELW #588

The Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the

Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Ordination To The Ministry Of Word And Sacrament

Presentation

L: I present for ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament Jesse Marie Hershberger who has been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry and who has been called by the church to this ministry through Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, IA.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

Address and Questions

L: All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation...Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen

Prayers of Intercession

*Each prayer petition concludes with "God of mercy," following which the congregation responds, **C: hear our prayer.**"*

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of Invocation "God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"
(O Christ, Surround Me) ACS #1084

Ordination:

Because all of its baptized members share in Christ's ministry of love and service, the church equips and supports them for their ministries in the world. Within this context of ministry, the church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries.

Within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament. In the service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, the church entrusts this office to those who have accepted the church's call and sends them into this ministry.

Stole:

Basically, the stole symbolically represents a yoke (Matthew 11:28-30). Like the yoke worn by oxen or a horse for field work, clergy wear the stole to note that as servants of God, they carry the burden of ministry as they care for the faithful. Another likely Biblical connection is with the towel Jesus wore as he dried his disciple's newly washed feet at the Last Supper (John 13:1-20). These references mark stoles as a symbol that clergy are servant leaders, following the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

L: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Giving Of The Stole Charge

Blessing

L: The God of peace... the glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Acclamation by the Assembly

L: Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole church, receive Jesse as a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a servant of Christ?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

L: Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

L: Let it be acclaimed that Jesse Marie Hershberger is a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ. Jesse has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments, serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always

C: And also with you

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

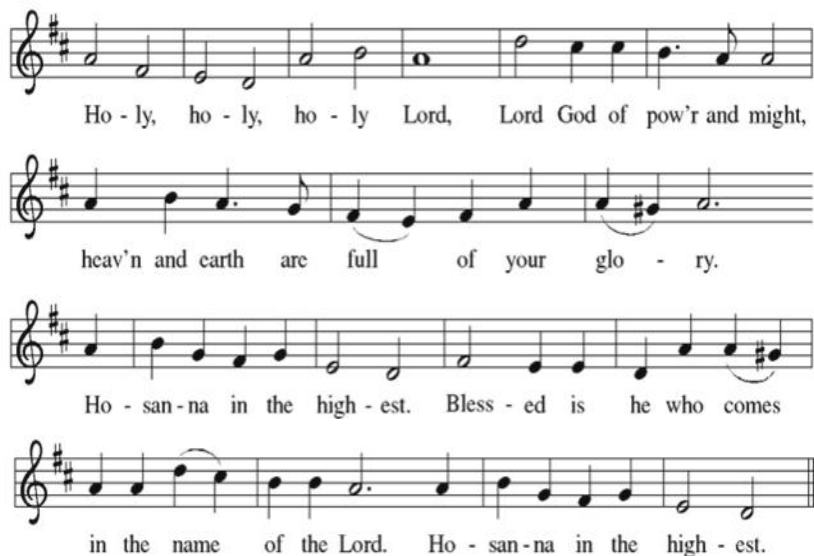
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places...and so, with all the saints, glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

L: In the night in which he was betrayed...

The Lord's Prayer

is, in a way, our table grace before the meal. As we gather in this meal, the table, or altar, becomes the collection of all of our tables for meals at home.

Communion: *Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. Two lines will form from the front pews to the back. Please use the hand sanitizer provided and take a cup from the tray. Then proceed to receive the gluten-free wafer. Both wine and grape juice will be available. Please place your cup in the basket by the side aisle as you return to the pew.*

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

L: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: #596, #763, ACS #1043, #623

Please rise in body or in spirit

Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: We thank you, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit. As you have again raised up among us a faithful servant for the ministry of word and sacrament, grant that we, with Jesse, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Announcements

Benediction

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn

“Baptized and Set Free”

ELW #453

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

L. Bourgeois arranged by M. Burkhardt

Words from Jesse

Throughout seminary and the candidacy process, I was asked time and time again to articulate my core theological beliefs. When given the choice to select scripture readings for this day, I returned to some of my favorite passages that keep me grounded in those beliefs: God hears the cries of God's people. God watches over the stranger. No one is beyond the bounds of God's great grace and mercy. The abundant love of God means there is always room for one more at God's table.

This abundant love is what has gotten me through every challenge and obstacle on the road to this day, and I am so grateful for the people who have reflected God's love back into my life. God's love and the faith of my community have carried me here when I didn't know what path to take. I have nothing but immense gratitude for everyone who has been a part of this journey:

For my parents, who have modeled so beautifully what it

means to embrace a faith that evolves and changes, who have rolled with every twist of life I've thrown at them. Thank you for giving me the gift of never having to doubt God's love for me.

For my grandparents, who have handed down a legacy of faith on which to stand. For my sisters, who keep me grounded and make me laugh and of whom I am so ridiculously proud. For Sam, who has embraced my vocation with curiosity and care, who asks the best questions and gives me a new perspective. For all of my friends who have been there on the best days and the worst days and, most importantly, the ordinary ones. For all of the Lutherans at Princeton, who showed me the way (spiritually and logistically) through seminary and candidacy. For everyone who has included me in their prayers and cheered me on.

For Pastors Mandy, Erica, and Tim, all the people of Trinity in Valpo and the LDA community, who gave me a soft place to land and let me bring my full self to church for the first time. For Pastor JJ and the congregation at Living Waters in Ringoes who extended grace upon grace as I learned and experimented. For Pastor Mike and Grace, who trusted me and embraced me in their community of faith. And of course, for Pastor Bryan and everyone at Bethesda--it has been a joy to enter into ministry with you all and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Finally, today is a day that is only possible because of the faithful queer Christians who have gone ahead of me, who have insisted that the table of God is open to all of us, without exception--even when the church did not understand. My heart is especially with those who had to choose whether to live as their full selves or to follow their call to ministry. Thank you for making a space for me so that I don't have to decide.

Assisting with the Service:

Presiding Minister: Bishop Amy Current

Preaching Minister: Rev. Michael Schmidt

Presenter: Rev. Bryan Simmons

Cantor: Rev. Christine Cowan

Lectors: Rev. Caroline Grindrod, Rebekah Hershberger

Organist: Rich Snyder

Communion Assistants: Bishop Amy Current, Rev. Michael Schmidt, Rev. Jesse Hershberger, Rev. Bryan Simmons, Ellie Taylor, Rev. Caroline Grindrod

Altar Guild: Jane Ridnour, Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

Tech: Greg Boeschen, Chuck Denton, Paul Nelson