



Van Gogh 1888

# COUNT THE STARS

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

10 August 2025

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

# Welcome to Grace!

Opening Voluntary - Soothing Reflection

by Rita Dunn

The Procession

Hymn #636  
*How Firm a Foundation*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,



1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,



1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

*Optional Interlude*



Words: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt. Music: *Foundation*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Calvin Hampton (1938-1984); alt. acc. Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929)

The Liturgy begins on page 355

## The Word of God

A Song of Praise #314 vs 1-2

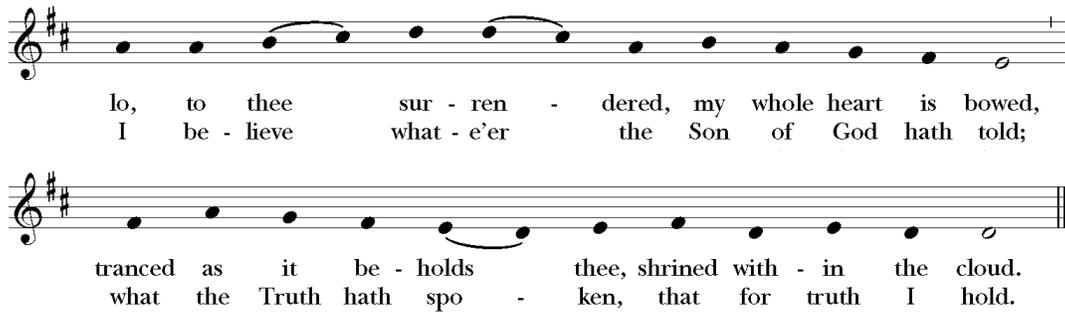
*Humbly I adore thee*



1 Hum - bly I a - dore thee, Ver - i - ty un - seen,  
2 Taste and touch and vi - sion to dis - cern thee fail;



who thy glo - ry hid - est 'neath these sha - dows mean;  
faith, that comes by hear - ing, pierc - es through the veil.



Words: Att. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); sts. 1-3, tr. *Hymnal 1940*; st. 4, tr. *Hymnal 1982*  
 Music: *Adoro devote*, French church melody, Mode 5, *Processionale*, 1697; acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

## The Collect

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

### Genesis 15:1-6

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

## The Psalm

**Psalm 33:12-22** (*read responsively by half verse*)  
*Exultate, justi*

- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! \*  
**happy the people he has chosen to be his own!**
- 13 The LORD looks down from heaven, \*  
**and beholds all the people in the world.**
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \*  
**on all who dwell on the earth.**
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them \*  
**and understands all their works.**
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \*  
**a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.**
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \*  
**for all its strength it cannot save.**
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, \*  
**on those who wait upon his love,**
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, \*  
**and to feed them in time of famine.**

- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; \*  
**he is our help and our shield.**
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \*  
**for in his holy Name we put our trust.**
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, \*  
**as we have put our trust in you.**

### The Second Lesson

#### Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Gospel Hymn LEVAS #7

#### *I Want to be Ready*

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with the melody and a bass clef staff with accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y." The second system also has a treble clef staff with the melody and a bass clef staff with accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I want to be read - y To walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John." The piece ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine" above the final note.

1. John said that Je - ru - sa - lem was four-square,  
 2. When Pe - ter was preach-ing at Pen - te - cost,

Walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John.

1. I hope, good Lord, I'll meet you there,  
 2. O he was filled with the Ho - ly Ghost,

Walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John. O

*D.C.*

Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943)

## The Holy Gospel

Deacon or Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

### Luke 12:32-40

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

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

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

Deacon or Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

# The Sermon

## Hymn

### WLP #769 *I Believe in God*

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all  
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and  
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the

things that be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens,  
cru - ci - fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied—  
saints with - in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly,

Keep - er of the sky and sea. I be - lieve in  
True Life there had tru - ly died. I be - lieve that  
where for - give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's

God's son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it  
on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed  
res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's

and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.  
ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

**Prayers of the People Form III - page 387**  
**Confession of Sin and Absolution - page 360**  
**The Peace**  
**Announcements**  
**Offertory - Soothing Reflection**  
**Hymn 380**

by Rita Dunn

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
 \*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711) Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes Octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm, after Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561)

**The Holy Communion**

**Eucharistic Prayer A - page 361**  
**Sanctus S-129**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven 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.

Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

**Fraction Anthem #314 vs 3-4**

*Humbly I adore thee*

3 O - me - mo - rial won - drous of the Lord's own death;  
 4 Je - sus, whom now hid - den, I by faith be - hold,  
 liv - ing Bread that giv - est all thy crea - tures breath,  
 what my soul doth long for, that thy word fore - told:  
 grant my spi - rit ev - er by thy life may live,  
 face to face thy splen - dor, I at last shall see,  
 to my taste thy sweet - ness nev - er - fail - ing give.  
 in the glo - rious vi - sion, bless - ed Lord, of thee.

Words: Att. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); sts. 1-3, tr. *Hymnal 1940*; st. 4, tr. *Hymnal 1982*  
 Music: *Adoro devote*, French church melody, Mode 5, *Processionale*, 1697; acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

**Communion Hymns #524**

*I Love Thy Kingdom Lord*

1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the  
 2 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers a - scend; to  
 3 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways, her  
 4 Je - sus, thou friend di - vine, our Sa - vior and our King, thy  
 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the  
 1 Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.  
 2 her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.  
 3 sweet com - mun - ion, so - lemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.  
 4 hand from ev - ery snare and foe shall great de - liv - erance bring.  
 5 bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

Words: Timothy Dwight (1725-1817) Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

# Hymn #68

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eghwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

### Post Communion Prayer - page 366 The Blessing of the People

Hymn #214  
Hail the day that sees him rise



1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 \*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 See! he shows the prints of love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt. Music: Llanfair, Robert Williams (1781–1821)

The Sending Forth - page 366  
Closing Voluntary - Soothing Reflection

by Rita Dunn

## Grace Notes

- **Flowers** are given in memory of Troy Mattison from parents Scott and Lisa Mattison.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
  - **Blessing of the Scarves** will be **Sunday, August 17th.**
  - **Summer Suppers:** The Next Summer Supper will be **Wednesday, August 13th.** More details to come.
  - **Grace Church BBQ** will be **Oct. 11 2025**
  - **Autumn Market at Grace:** **Saturday September, 6th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
  - **Grace Fall Festival/Rally day** will be **September 14th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
- **WWW** Our fall book results are in! We'll be reading *Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)* by Kate Bowler, *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor, and *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans. Join us in September as we start with *Everything Happens for a Reason*.
- **WWW Save the Date:** our next social will be Tuesday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to be added to the email list please contact Beth Lollis at [gracewomenwineandwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:gracewomenwineandwisdom@gmail.com)
- **Moms Meet-up** is **Saturday, August 30th at 9:30 a.m.** at E-City Java.
- **THE GRACE CODE**

Scan or tap to visit:


  - New to Grace
  - Outreach giving
  - Facebook page
  - Family Promise
  - Fall Market sign-up
- **The Last Confirmation Class** before Bishop Richards's visit on **Nov. 2nd Continues today Sunday, Aug. 10th at 9:15 a.m.** in the Parlor. Also good for baptisms, weddings, new members, and studying the faith.
- If you are **interested in being confirmed** on Nov. 2nd with Bishop Richards's visit contact the parish office. You will need to fill out a form.
- **South Main Chapel and Mercy Center** has an urgent need for tuna, potted meats and other canned foods with pop-top lids for their snack packs that are given to people in need.
- **Books of Common Prayer for the Pews:** Grace needs additional copies of the Book of Common Prayer for the pews. If you would like to make a donation for a BCP, they cost \$24.26. You can designate your donation with "Book of Common Prayer" in the memo line.
- If you would like to **donate to Family Promise** scan the Grace QR Code.
- **Sylvara Communion Visit** is **Monday, Aug 11th at 11 a.m.**
- **RSVP** to Nikki in the office by **Monday, Aug. 11th** if you would like to attend the Aug 13th Wednesday Night Dinner. Wear your best luau attire. Menu is Pineapple coleslaw, Hawaiian Rice, Pork loin, Authentic Hawaiian Macaroni Salad, Huli-Huli Chicken, Haupia (Hawaiian Coconut Pudding), and Hawaiian Pineapple Upside-Down cake. Aloha!
- **EYC** is hosting an Autumn Market to raise money for their October trip. If you are interested in having a booth at the Market scan or tap The Grace Code to sign up. For more information contact Sharon at [slgeorge864@gmail.com](mailto:slgeorge864@gmail.com).
- **Guy's Gathering at Grace** will be **Thursday, August 21st at 6 p.m.**
- **EYC Big Air Event** is **Saturday, August 23rd at 4 p.m.**
- **Grief Support** will meet **Thursday, August 28th at 10 a.m.**
- **Fifth Sunday Morning Prayer with Eucharist** will be **Sunday, August 31st** for both services.
- Want to learn more about helping with Sunday Worship? Anyone twelve and older is welcome to become a Crucifer, Torch Bearer or Server/Gospel Bearer. Youth are welcome, but these roles are NOT just for kids. Confirmed members over eighteen can also serve as Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearers) We have openings for all roles at both the 8:00 and the 10:30 services. Please contact Abigail Burden at [Mrs\\_Burden@yahoo.com](mailto:Mrs_Burden@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Those Who Serve

**Vestry-in-Charge:** Debbie Hand

**Second Counter:** Bill Scott

**Lector:** Abby Burden

**Lector:** Maryann Barnwell

**Intercessor:** Jodie Webb

**Chalice 2:** Debbie Hand

**1st Crucifer:** Nathanael Burden

**Server/Gospel Bearer:** David Burden

**Torch Bearers:** Anna Rose Burden, Anna Swinford

**Ushers:** Nathanael Burden, Christopher Wilford

**Linen Guild:** Pam Herold

**Altar Guild:** Janet Rippy, Kathy Bostater

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Steve Grant

**Organist Emeritus:** Bill Scott

### Those with birthdays this week

Nikki Price  
Mike Cheek  
Mike Rippy  
Andy Potter

### Baptismal Newbirth Day

24 November

### Those with Baptismal Newbirth Days this week

Heather Morhardt 12 August

Frances Hardaway 15 August

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