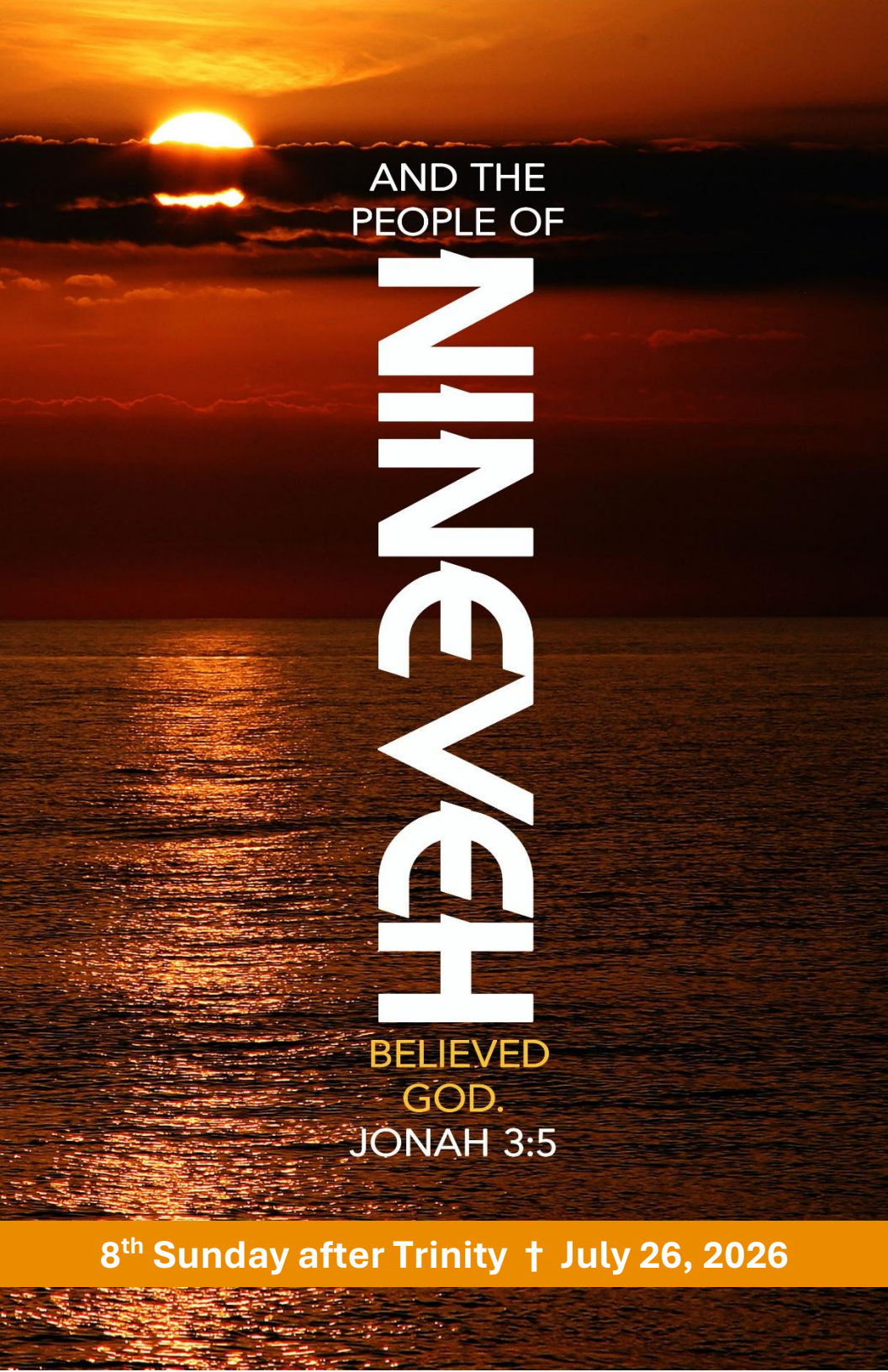




AND THE
PEOPLE OF

NINEVEH

BELIEVED
GOD.
JONAH 3:5

8th Sunday after Trinity † July 26, 2026

THE OPENING

Today's order of service follows the Worship Supplement Setting 1 (tan hymnal p. 1ff).

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn TLH 324:1-6 *Jesus Sinners Doth Receive*

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P** In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

- P** Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant forgiveness:

C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

- P** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

♪ **C** *Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.*

Glory to God in the Highest

A hymn glorifying and praising our God.

♪ **C** *Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Prayer for the Day

The main thoughts for the day are collected together in this prayer.

P Let us pray... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



THE SCRIPTURE

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-9

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32 *Selected Verses*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

P Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

C Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

 **C** *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again
from the dead. He ascended into heaven; and is seated at
the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He
will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn TLH 327 *Out of the Deep I Call*

THE SERMON

Sermon Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

THEME: REPENTANCE IS AN OPEN INVITATION

I. Even to Jonah. II. Even to the Ninevites. III. Even to you and me.

- 1. What did Jonah do the first time God told him to go to Nineveh?*
- 2. What miraculous action did God take to call Jonah to repentance?*
- 3. Describe the city of Nineveh. What was so bad about it?*
- 4. In what way, exactly, was Nineveh "an exceedingly great city"? (v.3)*
- 5. What miraculous thing happened when Jonah went to Nineveh?*
- 6. What amazing thing did Jesus say about the Ninevites?*
- 7. For what purpose does God still appoint "fish" to "swallow" us?*
- 8. How has God proven that you are exceedingly great to Him?*

THE RESPONSE

The Offertory

Having heard God's Word, we ask Him to spiritually heal us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Hymn WS 709 God Loves Me Dearly

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your offering electronically, please scan the QR code on the announcement page.

Prayer of the Church † The Lord's Prayer

We boldly approach God's throne of grace, that we may find grace to help in time of need.

☐ 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.

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

♪ **☐ Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn TLH 324:7-8 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

WELCOME!

We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.

- † **Restrooms** are located to the right after you exit down the main aisle.
- † **Parent's Room** is located in the northeast corner of the sanctuary.
- † **Amplifying headsets** are available. Please ask an usher.
- † **If you are visiting with us today**, please sign the guest book in the entryway and we invite you to join us again.
- † **If you are looking for a church home?** Ask Pastor about a free one-on-one Bible study for new people. Where & when? Your convenience.

Grace Lutheran Church & School

460 75th Ave. NE Fridley, MN 55432 † FridleyLutheran.org

Church Office: 763-784-8784 † School Office: 763-784-6340

Pastor Tom Naumann † C: 313-419-8543 † tomnaumann.pastor@gmail.com

Principal Janelle Hein † C: 763-438-4877 † janellehein@gmail.com



We are dedicated to the proclamation of the gospel of Christ crucified for sinners.



We are a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

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