

Grace Lutheran Church

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Self-Care

When her sister Mary fails to help her with her work, Martha asks Jesus, “Lord, do you not care?” (Luke 10:40). Many in our culture can relate to the heavy demands Martha tries to manage. Martha voices her desperation directly, but it is what she *doesn't* say that is perhaps more interesting: Jesus, I know you are here, but I don't have time for you right now. Clearly, Martha is doing what she believes has to be done. However, it is Jesus who really knows what ought to be done. He recognizes that Mary gets it—she takes time for God.

Renita Weems, in her book, *Listening for God* (Simon & Schuster, 1999), responds to ten years of private journal entries that reveal her unconscious spiritual decent, as well as her gratitude for having made the time to discover the power of silence in journaling. Weems's writings document her inability to navigate the competing roles of mother, wife, seminary professor, pastor, and writer, and describe her discernment of a mysterious diminished desire to pray. Weems's frequent invitation to God to be present during this chaotic time of her life was nothing more than a meaningless ritual for her fixer-reactionary personality, which had no time to show hospitality to the divine. As she revisited past journal entries, Weems began to relish those graceful periods when she took the time to scribble reflections on life's moments in the margins of her notepads. Journaling forced her to carve out time to reflect on the word, her vocation, and her life. She missed those periods.

Weems had found herself in the same situation as Martha. She had invited God to enter her chaotic space, yet she did not acknowledge the power of his presence. Thank God that for all our sakes, God continues to enter our chaotic lives—bidden or unbidden—and invites us to listen.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2016

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Music *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing* **ELW 531** (red book)

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

☐ Let us pray . . . Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest.

☑ **Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long—awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

☐ A reading from **Genesis**:

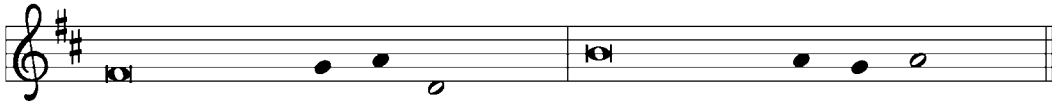
¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a}Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?



¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**

who speak the truth | from their heart; ☩

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. ☩

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

☩ A reading from **Colossians**:

¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been

revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

▣ The word of the Lord.

▣ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.

▣ The Gospel according to **Luke**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

▣ The Gospel of the Lord.

▣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message.

Message

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day *Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak* **ELW 676** (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

A Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A You open the doors of your church, Lord, to all who feel distant or estranged. Give us courage to share your good news through conversation and love. Accompany the leadership of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches throughout the world, Spruce Lutheran Church in Spruce, Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish in Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Cultivate in all people a care for the world you have made. Make us mindful of our impact on creation for the good of our neighbor and future generations. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Reconcile and bring peace to communities that suffer. Raise up and strengthen leaders and organizations that promote dialogue, hospitality, and restoration. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Open our eyes to see those suffering any affliction, even ourselves. Open our lips to boldly beg relief in body or spirit for all in need. We pray especially for *Sue Steeby, Butch Tossava, George Ulrich Jr, Deb Wood, Dollie Larsen, Joe Rathbauer, Lea Shafer, for the family of Kenney Hirons, the family of Adrian Brown and Immanuel Church in Big Rapids.* Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Bless and keep safe campers, counselors, and families who experience the gift of outdoor ministry at camps this summer. Continue transforming them in Christ once they are safely home. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Comfort your children with the trust that your word is stronger than death. We remember saints and loved ones who have died and rest in you. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

☞ We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts & Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

We Are an Offering

ELW 692 (red book)

Offertory Prayer

☞ God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.

☞ **Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☞ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

☞ 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation everything was whole and well in your praise.
- ☑ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**
- Ⓟ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,
- ☑ **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- ☑ **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- Ⓟ Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
- ☑ **both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓟ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation To Communion

☐ Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast of the Lord.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

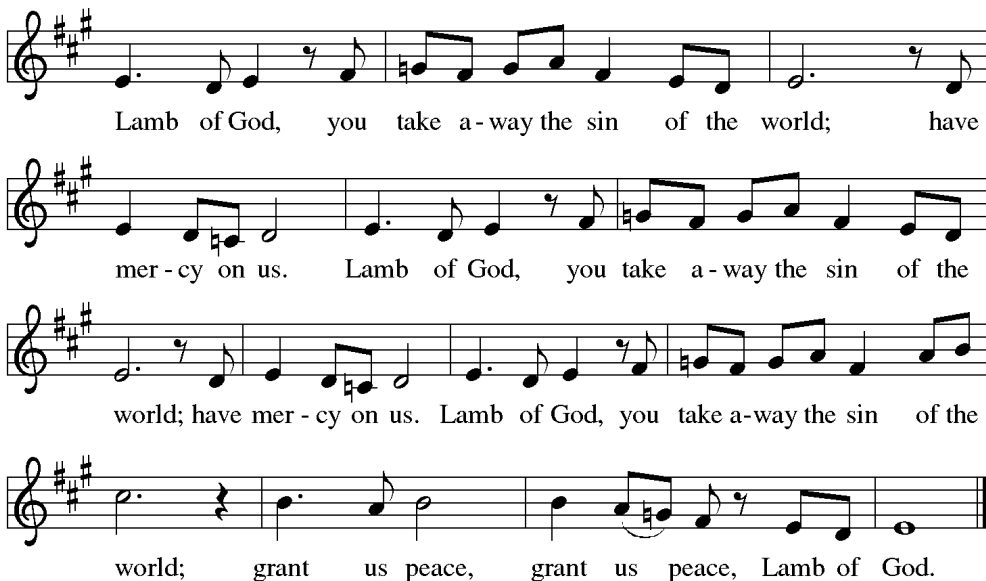
✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

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, Lamb of God.

Now the Silence

ELW 460 (red book)

Taste and See

ELW 493

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

C **Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

P 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.

C Amen.

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Hymn

Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535 (red book)

Sending

A Alleluia. Proclaim the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 97

Weekly Giving: \$3,375.00

Budget

Amount: \$4,233.32

Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will take place on Saturday, July 16th at 8:45 am. If you are interested, please sign up in the narthex.

Grace's 2nd Annual Car Show – coming August 7th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. We will have only the 10:00 am worship service that day. Bring your favorite chair, since worship is outdoors, “under the tent”. Some chairs will be provided for those members unable to carry their own. A lunch will follow worship and everyone is invited.

Grace Pictorial Directory - Grace will be making a new pictorial directory this fall. The directory will enable the congregation to have a new updated member list with current addresses and phone numbers. The directory will help our members connect names with faces -a handy tool for new members! Picture dates have been set for **September 22, 23 and 24**. Outreach encourages everyone to have a picture taken- there is no charge for the directory photograph. Watch for additional information.

ANYONE interested in youth ministries (either helping with the ministry or parents who have youth to participate) will be meeting at Grace Tuesday, July 19th at 6pm. We will be discussing 2016/17 school year and will brainstorm on ideas to share God's love with our youth. It is important to have parents involved so please come! If you wish to participate but can't make the meeting please contact Jana Bishop at 269.838.3348.

Wednesday Prayer Group – Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. All are encouraged to pray, even if you are unable to attend

Barry County Cares is currently in need of items for their Personal/Household items pantry, which depletes quickly. Items requested are: hand lotion, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, shampoo/conditioner, Kleenex, paper towels, dish detergent and laundry detergent. Please remember those less fortunate the next time you do your shopping. Donations can be dropped off in the box next to Pastor Paul's office.

To Our Grace Family: Have any of you ever felt that telling someone, "Thank You" was woefully inadequate? That's how it feels when we tell you, "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts." Without the sea of angels that came from Grace to help us move, there is NO WAY it would have happened by the Sunday, July 3rd, afternoon deadline. We will never forget the kindness, support and caring you showed us on that day. We will forever be grateful.

In Christ, Deanna, Jonathan, Ethan & Eliana Reid

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Connor Wales
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Jack Barnaart
Ushers	Dan/Melissa Patton Gavin & Grayson Patton	Gary/Lisa Golnek Dollie Larson, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Carla Neil
Nursery	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Steve/Traci Wales
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, July 24, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Mary Kuhlman	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Hope Peck
Ushers	Randy/Brenda Teegardin Lyle/Joyce Proksch	Doug/Diane Neeb Dave Neeb, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Nursery	Dan/Melissa Patton	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, July 17

Wednesday, July 20

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Prayer group 6:00 pm