

Grace Lutheran Church

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Who's Your Master?

Someone once said you can tell what's important to you by looking at your checkbook or account statement. There might be some big-ticket items on the list, but the most frequent items might tell the bigger story. What are the small things that add up over time? What are the patterns of spending that indicate what you value?

The same could probably be said for your calendar. What do you spend your time on and what does that say about what holds value for you? Who or what do you serve? Who or what is your master? An even more important question to ask might be what kind of a master do you want to serve?

Time and wealth are not very forgiving masters. They aren't ultimately interested in your welfare or anyone else's. To chase after these masters, no matter how successfully, is to run into a dead end. There's never enough time to do it all. There's never enough money to do it all.

However, the God who created time and provides for our every need is forgiving beyond measure and interested in you to the point of sending Jesus to die for you. To serve God is to experience a richness in this life that bubbles up to a life without end. To use your gifts, resources, and skills in service to this master is to invest in returns that are priceless not just for you, but for the world. According to Jesus' parable for today, God can use your creativity, and even shrewdness, to benefit others and accomplish God's mission. May worshiping in the Spirit's presence today free you to use your time and resources for the Master's purpose.

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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.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 859 (red book)

Use tune from ELW 858

Greeting

☞ Blessed be the Holy Trinity; one God; the only sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

☞ Amen.

Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.

☞ **Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading:

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

☞ A reading from **Amos:**

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

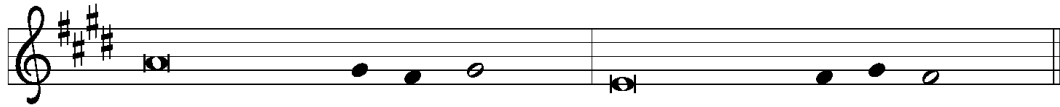
☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113




The LORD lifts up the poor from the ash - es.



¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;
praise the name | of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | LORD be praised.


⁴**The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens. **

⁵Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

⁶**but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah! 


Second Reading:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

A reading from **1 Timothy:**

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

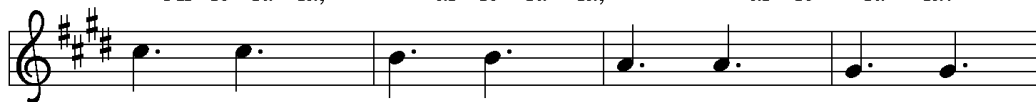
Gospel Acclamation



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading:

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

📖 The Gospel according to **Luke**.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

☐ 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 *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*

ELW 523 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

☐ Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

☐ Giver of the feast, bless your church and all who hunger and thirst. Nourish us richly with your word and meal, and send us as signs of your living presence in the world. Bring power to our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea, Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland, Church of the Nazarene in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ Ruler of the earth, bring forth an abundant harvest from fields, orchards, and gardens. Renew fields that will soon lie fallow. Feed and protect all wild creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ God of the nations, we pray for places in the world affected by conflict, war, and turmoil. We pray that your perfect peace and order be restored. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ God of our weary years, we remember before you those among us who are sick or who are recovering from illness or surgery. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *Sue Rider, Jennifer Anderson, Joe Rothbauer, Mary Ann Blake, Corrina Palmer, Al Miller, John Burdick, Debra Wood, George Ulrich Jr, Katie Leary, Diana Brown and the family of Dollie Larsen.*

☑ **hear our prayer.**

A God our beginning and ending, we thank you for hope even in the midst of despair. Visit this assembly with your light and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

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 Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A God of our silent tears, we remember the faithful departed who make up the great cloud of witnesses. Gather us all in praise around your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G **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.

Offertory Hymn

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486 (red book)

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread,

G **so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P 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:



San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



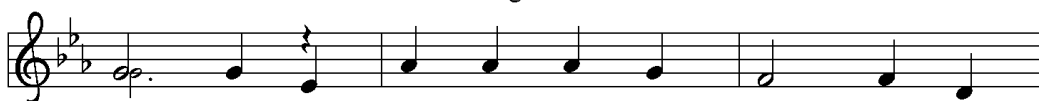
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ Holy God, Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

☞ **You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**

☞ 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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,

☞ **we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.**

☞ By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

☞ **strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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:

☞ Take hold of the life that really is life. Come, take your place at the table.

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



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



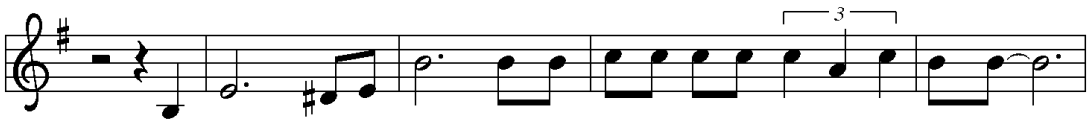
ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



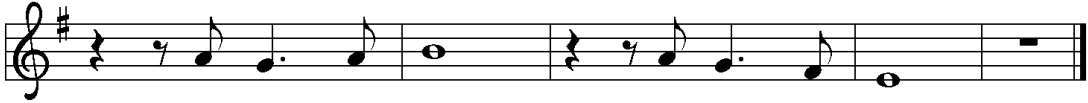
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
 grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Now We Offer

WOV 761 (blue book)

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

WOV 763

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

WOV 711

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ.

G **Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

G **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

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW 583 (red book)

Sending

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Today's Worship Leaders

8:00 am

10:00am

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Steve Kaiser | Traci Wales |
| Cantor | Jack Vos | Kate Watson |
| Lector | Carol Vos | Gwen Hansen |
| Communion Server | Mark Anton | Phyllis Lietz |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Katie Pohl | Hope Peck |
| Usher | Mark Anton | Gary/Lisa Golnek |
| | Lyle/Joyce Proksch | Mark Anton, Dollie Larsen |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Volunteers | John/Mary Kleinbrink |
| Nursery | Volunteers | Children's Church |
| Chancel Team | Wales Family | Ingrid Morgan |

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 25, 2016

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Randy Teegardin | Mark Anton |
| Cantor | Mark Anton | Myrina Clements |
| Lector | Steve Kaiser | Joyce Daugherty |
| Communion Server | Melissa Patton | Sandy Mosteller |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Gavin Patton | Gabe Barnaart |
| Usher | Mark Anton | Gwen Hansen |
| | Volunteers | Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Mark/Jana Bishop | Doug/Diane Neeb |
| Nursery | Volunteers | Children's Church |
| Chancel Team | Wales Family | Ingrid Morgan |

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, September 18

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Children's Church 10:45 am
Adult Forum – Parables 9:30 am

Monday, September 19

Adult Forum – John 6:00 pm

Tuesday, September 20

Council meeting 6:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday, September 21

Prayer group 6:00 pm

Thursday, September 22

Clapper Kids 3:45-5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45-7:00 pm

Thursday – Saturday

Pictures at Grace

Sunday, September 25

New member brunch after each service

High School & Middle School Youth Groups 6-7:30 p

Baptism: Myles & Molly Rosenberger 10:45 am

Stewardship Information

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar and hamburger/tuna helper. Donations can be placed in the box outside Pastor Paul's office.

Worshippers last week: 96

Weekly Giving: \$3,185.00

Budget

Amount: \$4,226.98

Did you know? Children can bring a bag from the Pencil Tree to worship. You will find fun things

to do as you pass the time in worship.

Children at the 10:45 service will be invited to participate in Children's Church after the Children's Sermon. They will return with the leader at the time of the Passing of the Peace.

Adult Forums begin this week on Sunday, between services and on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm

New Member Class –begins today for our newest members, for anyone interested in joining and for members who would like a refresher. The class runs for six weeks and will begin each Sunday around 12 Noon and last for 60-70 minutes.

New Member Brunch – scheduled for **September 25th** after each service to welcome our newest members. Their pictures will be posted very soon.

Baptisms of Molly & Myles Rosenberger next Sunday at the 10:45 am service.

Let's beautify our church – looking for volunteers that would like to beautify the grounds of Grace Lutheran Church on **October 1**. Skills needed: helping out, having fun, playing in the dirt, meeting and working with those you know and maybe a few you don't know. We plan to work 9 am - ? (depends on how many volunteers help out). If you have questions, please contact Phil Poholski at 269-948-3655.

Fall Festival - Saturday, Oct. 8th from 6 until ? Social Activities would like to invite everyone to a fall festival at Doug and Diane's pole barn. All ages are welcome. There will be games for kids and adults, a bon fire to roast s'mores and hotdogs, or to tell stories around. Please bring a dish to pass, table service will be furnished. We will provide pop, cider and hot dogs. You're welcome to bring your beverage of choice. We are not in the church so it could include some of your favorite alcohol. (Pastor Paul said it was acceptable.) Come and enjoy some free time and celebrate the remodeling of our church. Our address is 3561 Barber Rd. Hastings just a short distance from the church. Phone 269-945-9470. If you need directions just ask or give us a call

CROP Walk – the annual Barry County CROP Walk to address the problem of world hunger is scheduled for **October 9**. You can be a walker or you can commit to supporting a walker through your gifts. This year the walk will take place in Hastings. Contact Kim Domke, 269-908-0024, or Jane Secor, 269-569-1275, if you would like to help.

