

Grace Lutheran Church

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Seeds of Mercy and Grace

In 2015, *Time* magazine named German Chancellor Angela Merkel “Person of the Year.” At the time she was known worldwide for her resolve to allow tens and hundreds of thousands of refugees into the country. Just as some praised her as a leader with compassion, others, fearing there could be terrorists among the refugees, believed she was foolishly endangering her people. Nonetheless, the world leader, daughter of a Lutheran pastor, remained resolute, trusting that even if there were evil ones among those who came into the country, she would not deny the possibility of a new life to the refugees.

Years ago a small group of gardeners in northern Wisconsin scattered seeds from lupine pods along state roadsides, leaving them to propagate wherever they fell and however they would grow. Now, decades later, every year in early summer an orchestra of purple and pink, blue, yellow, and white lupine performs visual symphonies for miles and miles along the highways in spite of all the competing seeds that have, over the years, fallen onto that same ground. Whatever weeds and thistles, brush and vines were rooted, they did not diminish or destroy or even restrain the splendor that bloomed from the seeds those gardeners had planted.

When the disciples, so puzzled by the parable, asked Jesus why the sower would allow weeds to remain among what the sower had planted, he repeated his familiar, hopeful message of grace.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu understood Jesus’ message when, even in the dark days of South African apartheid, he wrote, “Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death” (from *An African Prayer Book* [New York: Random House, 1995]).

The disciples’ question brings us to the deep root of grace. Let the kingdom of heaven grow in the world. The seeds of mercy, grace, compassion, and forgiveness will prevail.

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7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2017

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 Song

Here I Am, Lord

WOV 752 (blue 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 . . . Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.

☑ **By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

☐ A reading from **Isaiah**:

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.** 

¹³For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.**

¹⁷**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to
shame;**

because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me. 

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

A reading from **Romans:**

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to

decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

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

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God’s judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’

²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

☞ 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

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

ELW 755 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☞ Called together in the Spirit’s embrace, let us pray for the mending of God’s world.

A brief silence.

☞ Enliven your church with love for your world, O God. Give undivided hearts to Christians from Africa and the Americas, Asia and Europe. Make us one in faithful witness to your will. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; St Matthew Lutheran Church in Herron, McCallum United Brethren Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

☞ Renew the life of this earth, O God, even as it groans because of misuse and decay. Cultivate in us an eager longing for a healthy and life-giving earth. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayers.**

A Bridge the chasms that divide the nations, O God. Inspire a reconciling vision among the world's leaders, and bring together people of differing commitments for the sake of the world's most vulnerable people. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.*

Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A Embrace those who suffer, O God. Give peace to all who are near death, hope to those who are depressed, shelter to the homeless, and healing to the sick. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Keenan Rudesill, Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Macaully, Sharon Duits, Corrina Palmer, Jane Secor, Bob Crankshaw, Nianne Jarrard, Abbie Kopf, Rob M. and the Roberts family.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A Embolden our witness to your love, O God. Send us out into the world with courageous hearts, persistence, and holy wisdom. Inspire us to tend to and delight in our children's faith. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and bless our congregation with patience while we wait for our next Pastor. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace, and let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to 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 prayers.**

A Raise up your saints, O God. Inspire us by the lives of all reformers and renewers of your church. Receive our thanks for the saints among us who have recently died. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

P All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song**God Extends an Invitation**

ELW 486 (red book)



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
 God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
 a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
 gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
 feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

C You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our 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.



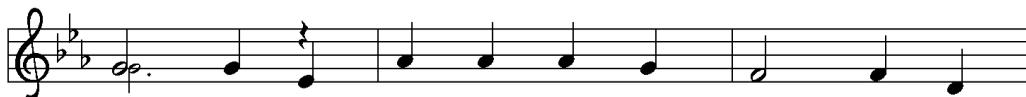
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



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, 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, holy 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

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.

Great is Thy Faithfulness
On Eagle's Wings
Thine the Amen

ELW 733 (red book)
ELW 787
ELW 826

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

C **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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 Song

Blest Are They

ELW 728 (red book)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C Thanks be to God.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, July 23

Monday, July 24

Tuesday, July 25-29

Sunday, July 30

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

LACS Rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm

Pastor Paul out of town

Worship at 10:00 am only

3rd annual car show 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 893

Weekly Giving: \$3,011.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, canned pasta (ie, spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc) and stuffing.

Renovation Volunteers - We are looking for 8-12 volunteers to join our work crew on **July 29th** to start the next phase of our renovation. For more information please contact Doug Neeb.

Outdoor service & 3rd annual Grace Car Show on **July 30** will be a one service Sunday, worship at 10:00 am, with a luncheon to follow at 11:30. The luncheon is provided by Thrivent and the Social Activities Committee. Car Show begins at 9:00 am. We are worshipping outdoors so bring lawn chairs for your comfort.

Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>
Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mary Kuhlman	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Doug Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Hope Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke & <i>Volunteers</i>
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Lyle/Joyce Proksch	Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, July 30, 2017

Assisting Ministers		Traci Wales
Cantor		Vickey Argo
Lector		Carol Vos
Communion Server		Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer		Grayson Patton
Usher		John Burdick, Kay Marsh
		Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.		<i>Volunteers</i>
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush