

Grace Lutheran Church

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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

A World without Scarcity

We can easily remember the times in our lives when someone has been generous to us—whether by giving us a second chance financially or by pouring their time and energy into helping us succeed. Even the smallest moment of generosity can become a memory of great significance to us, one that brings joy and hope. Yet on a daily basis it can be easy to forget such moments of generosity when the world around us is filled with messages of scarcity. We are told that there is not enough—not enough money, jobs, resources, time, or even love—to go around.

Peter’s question in today’s gospel about how many times he ought to forgive someone is grounded in this kind of thinking. Faced with Peter’s fear of scarcity, Jesus’ response reveals his own confidence that there is always more love and more forgiveness to give. Jesus’ words to Peter are grounded in his faith in an infinitely loving God whose mercy knows no limits. This kind of generosity is reflected in Jesus’ parable when the king forgives a debt that would have been impossible to pay back. The king’s action in the parable calls us to respond to the needs we see around us for forgiveness, for assistance, or for the use of our gifts with a generosity that comes from God.

When we gather as a Christian community for worship, we proclaim God’s generous outpouring of love on us throughout history and our own lives. We come to hear Jesus respond to the narratives of scarcity around us with a narrative of abundance and generous giving—the narrative of his own life. When our time together ends, we are sent out to continue writing that story into the world around us through the generosity God has inspired in us.

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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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 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

In Christ Alone

LUYH 770

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babel— this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No power of

G D G A Bm
G Em7 A D G D G
A Bm G Em7 A D

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all,
 fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid;
 me; for I am his and he is mine,
 hand; 'till he re - turns or calls me home,

here in the love of Christ I stand.
 here in the death of Christ I live.
 bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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 . . . O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

☑ Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

and justice for all who | are oppressed.

⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;** 

⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. 

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

 A reading from **Romans**:

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

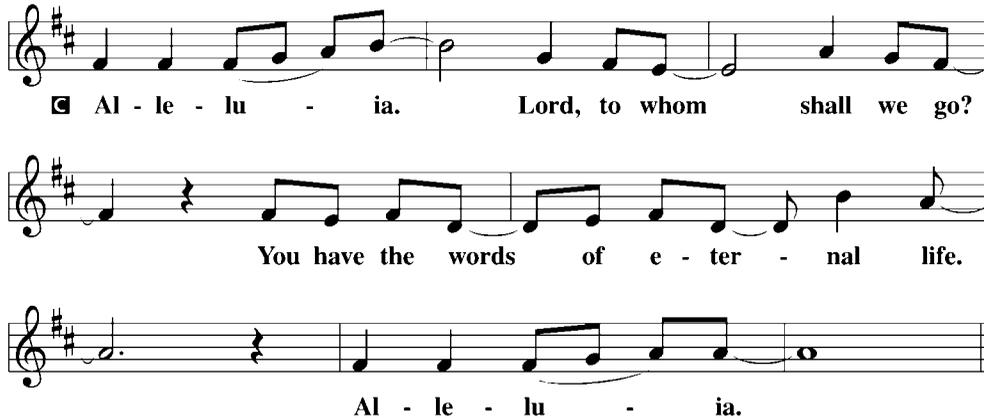
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

☐ 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community. Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. 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; Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Nashville Baptist Church*; and Minister of Music Cindy. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Be present with those feeling the effects of the hurricanes and forest fires, and give strength to those who are serving in relief efforts. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. 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 Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow, Gary Burdick, Kathy & Ken Plourde, William Darnell, Judy & Bill Heil and Jeanne & Ron Bush*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and patience for our congregation while we wait for our next Pastor. Let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

C 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,

C hear our prayers.

A We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you. Raise us with them on the last day. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayers.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

C Amen.

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

Create in Me

TFF



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion

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.

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



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*I Come with Joy
Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty
One Bread, One Body*

ELW 482 (red book)
ELW 777
ELW 496

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.

G **May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless 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 Song

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 8360 (red book)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Sound the good news.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 90

Weekly Giving: \$

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

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

Congregational Care Committee will meet on Monday, September 25 at 3:00 pm. Please contact

Sharon Varkula, Committee Chair, with any questions.

PLEASE SAVE the DATE for CROP WALK October 8, 2017. Grace Lutheran is hosting this event for Barry County and we need your help to welcome 10-15 churches and up to 300 people. You can sign up to donate food or be a volunteer the day of the event. You can participate as a walker by signing up with Kim Domke or on

line <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/hastingsmi>

Donations will be collected Sept 17 – October 8. Checks should be written to CWS-CROP Please see the board in the Gathering Space for more details, or talk with Kim Domke.

Grace Outreach Committee meets the second Monday of each month at 5:00. We welcome any one who has new ideas for outreach in our community or wants to help organize one particular event, such as the Halloween Trick or Treat inside of Grace. Please contact Mike Kemper for more details on how to get involved.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, September 24

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Monday, September 25

Congregational Care 3:00 pm

LACS rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 26

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Mark Anton	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Volunteer
Lector	Carol Vos	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Hope Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Doug/Diane Neeb
		Gwen Hansen, Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Eve Wright, Hope Peck
Chancel Team	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 24, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Melissa Patton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Grayson Patton
Usher	John Burdick	Dan & Gavin Patton
	Kay Marsh	Mark Anton, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church		Kim Domke, Emma Peck
Chancel Team	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan