

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Abundant Life

Western culture would have us believe that life consists of an abundance of possessions, an abundance of freedom—license—to do exactly as we please, an abundance of time to live life with as much fun and as little responsibility as we can possibly manage.

Summer, we are told—this season full of lazy, hazy, crazy days—is a great time to head out to the cabin on the lake, take the boat out for a few days, and relax. Eat, drink, and be merry!

Even those of us with more meager summer plans are often surrounded by an abundance of stuff: clothing that no longer fits, books we never read, toys the kids have outgrown—and how many pairs of shoes does one person really need? The growth of the storage unit industry tells us that as a society, we are collecting stuff at an alarming rate—especially given that most of the stuff is itself collecting dust in a closet or attic.

In today's gospel, Jesus issues a serious challenge to those of us surrounded by too much stuff. He reminds us that "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). And if we're honest with ourselves, deep down, we know that's true. Our abundance of possessions does not fill us, does not truly satisfy us, and certainly does not last for eternity. In contrast, following Jesus leads to an abundant life—the deep, rich life that comes from a relationship with the one who made us. When we attend to the word of God through prayer and regular devotion to the scriptures, when we meet Jesus in the sacraments of baptism and communion, when we intentionally build community with fellow believers, we will find ourselves rich toward God, living an abundant life that lasts for all eternity.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has one side 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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 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

Come All You People

WOV 717 (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 . . . Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives.

☞ **Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

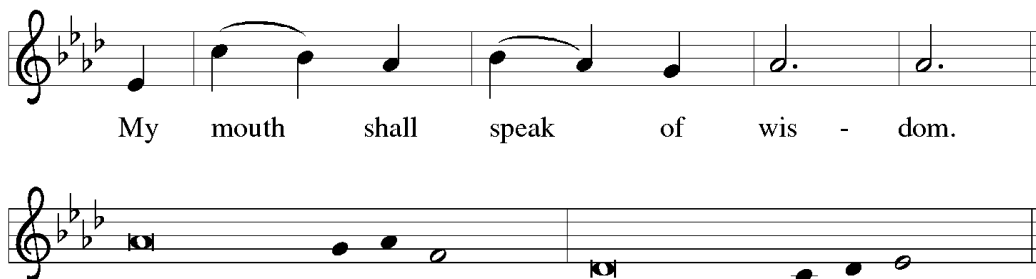
☞ A reading from **Ecclesiastes**:



²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**



- ¹Hear this, | all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
- ²**you of high de- | gree and low,
rich and | poor together.**
- ³My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
- ⁴**I will incline my ear | to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. **
- ⁵Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,
- ⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,
and boast of | their great riches?**
- ⁷One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;
- ⁸**for the ransom of a life | is so great
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**
- ⁹in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.
- ¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**
- ¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to |
generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.
- ¹²**Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that perish. **

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

 A reading from **Collossians:**

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,

³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

▣ 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 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

▣ The Gospel according to **Luke**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store

my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

▮ 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

Touch the Earth Lightly

ELW 739 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

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

A brief silence.

▮ O God, enliven the body of Christ with energy and creativity. Work through partnerships across towns, denominations, and ministry contexts, that Christ be shared with all. 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, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Suttons Bay, Yankee Springs Bible Church in Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

▮ **Your mercy is great.**

▮ Guard your creation against greed and over-consumption. Restore polluted air and waters, protect animal habitats, and send new growth where it is needed. Hear us, O God.

▮ **Your mercy is great.**

▮ Break down barriers between neighborhoods, peoples, and nations. Sustain community leaders, legislators, volunteers, peacemakers, and all who seek the good of their communities. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson. Hear us, O God.

▮ **Your mercy is great.**

▮ Soothe furrowed and fevered brows. Give energy and compassion to caregivers, those who sit at bedsides or wait by the phone. Comfort all in need of healing. We pray especially for *Carol Vos, Sue Steeby, Butch Tossava, George Ulrich Jr, Deb Wood, Ethyl Simon and Joe Rathbauer*. Hear us, O God.

▮ **Your mercy is great.**

▮ Inspire our congregation to live in the present moment, O God, and to trust in you. In committee meetings, classrooms, and all ministries, give us flexibility to follow where you lead. Hear us, O God.

☞ 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.

Ⓐ Hear us, O God.

☞ Your mercy is great.

Ⓐ We give thanks for those who have died recently and across the ages, and we rejoice in the hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

☞ 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

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . 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

L Blessed are you, Holy God, the First and Last, life's Beginning and its End. You called us to live as your people and promised to be our God. When time and again we failed to trust your promise and refused to walk in your ways,

C you sent your Word made flesh, the root and offspring of David, to dwell among us and draw us back to you.

L In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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."

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L 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."

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and all who share this meal. By your Spirit wipe away all tears and mend with mercy what sin has torn apart.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

L We await Christ's coming with glad and joyful hearts.

C And we long to feast forever at the Supper of the Lamb. 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.

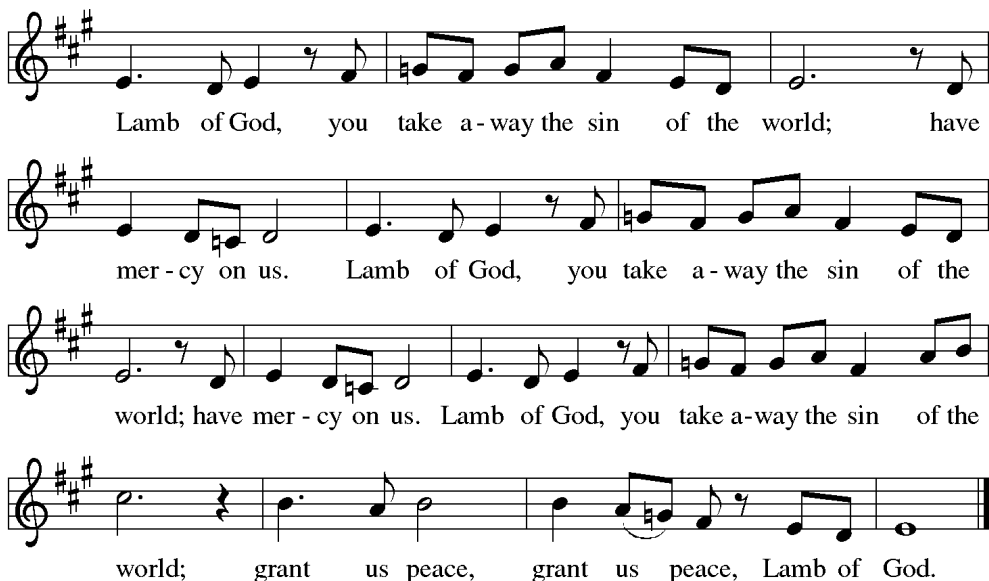
✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ 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.

Come to the Table

ELW 481 (red book)

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

▮ 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.

▮ **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

▮ 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.

▮ **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

We Give Thee But Thine Own

ELW 686 (red book)

Sending

▮ Alleluia. Proclaim the good news.

▮ **Thanks be to God.**

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

Today's Worship Leaders

| | 8:00 am | 10:00am |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Steve Kaiser | Traci Wales |
| Cantor | Mark Anton | Myrina Clements |
| Lector | Lorie Gladyness | Gwen Hansen |
| Communion Server | Jan Schreiner | Mark Anton |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Katie Pohl | Gabe Barnaart |
| Ushers | Mark Anton, Kay Marsh | Mark Anton, Joe Longcor |
| | Volunteers needed | Steve Wales, Carolyn O'Connor |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Chris Bush | Doug/Diane Neeb |
| Nursery | Volunteers needed | Volunteers needed |
| Chancel Team | Kay Howell | Chris Bush |

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 7, 2016

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Lorie Gladyness |
| Cantor | Vickey Argo |
| Lector | Jack Vos |
| Communion Server | Jana Bishop |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Emmalee Peck |
| Ushers | Mark/Jana Bishop |
| | Tom/Cheryl Drumm |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Eve Wright |
| Nursery | Volunteers needed |
| Chancel Team | Chris Bush Pastor Paul |

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Today, July 31 | Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am |
| Tuesday, August 2 | Executive Committee 5:30 pm |
| | Worship Committee 6:30 am |
| Wednesday, August 3 | Prayer group 6:00 pm |
| Saturday, August 6 | Worship planning meeting 9:00 am - noon |
| Sunday, August 7 | One Service at 10:00 am |
| | Grace's 2 nd Annual Car Show 9:00 am – 3:00 pm |

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 82 Weekly Giving: \$3,040.00 Budget Amount: \$4,233.32

Parish Administrator Victoria will be on vacation August 1 – August 5.

Hastings Food Pantry is in need of saltine crackers and sugar. Donations can be placed in the box next to Pastor Paul's office.

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. You can begin signing up today. Visit the table in the entrance, or visit our website and click on the icon.

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

First Communion – Molly Patton joins us at the table for the first time to eat and drink of the presence and promise of Christ in his Body and Blood. Today is Molly's “First Communion”. Welcome, and may this be the first of a long history of communion with God's people, Molly.

Worship Committee – will meet this coming Saturday at 9:00 am to select hymns for the months ahead.

Lakewood Area Choral Society – their annual “Follies” concert is scheduled for August 13 at 3:00 & 7:00 pm in the Grace Community Church of Nashville. You will enjoy it as they sing many Disney favorites.