

Grace Lutheran Church
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Come and Die

At a Lutheran camp, confirmation youth carry a large wooden cross from activity to activity for one full day during their week-long session. They don't carry it as individuals

but together with their group. When another group sees them carrying the cross to the pool or on a hike or walking to supper, they call out, “Hey, why do you carry that cross?” The group carrying the cross responds, “Because Jesus Christ is the center of our lives!” When youth are asked what it’s like to carry the cross together for a whole day, they say, “It’s a pain. It’s awkward. It’s hard to be that close to each other all day. It’s hard to do when you’re tired or the trail is muddy. I got splinters. It made me think about what Jesus did. Jesus carried the cross to where he died, but we just carried it to the lake where we had fun.”

What does it mean to carry the cross and follow Jesus? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was put to death for his part in a plot to kill Hitler. He wrote in his book *The Cost of Discipleship* that “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Sometimes people feel called by Jesus to take stands or actions that do mean they might lose their life literally as Bonhoeffer did. But all of us are called by Christ in our ordinary lives to die to things that get in the way of fully serving Christ and our neighbor—perhaps especially our own comfort, whether through relationships or possessions.

This Labor/Labour Day weekend we reflect on Christ’s call to labor at carrying the cross for the sake of others. Marked with the sign of the cross in baptism, may the Spirit who came to us then center our lives in Christ now.

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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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Favorite Hymn Sunday
September 4, 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

Congregation's Choice

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 . . . Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help,
Ⓑ that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

◻ A reading from **Deuteronomy**:

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

Ⓑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1



They are like trees plant - ed by streams of wa - ter.



¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that |
do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R**

Second Reading:

Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

A reading from **Philemon:**

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the

gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

WOV 715 (blue book)



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.

2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



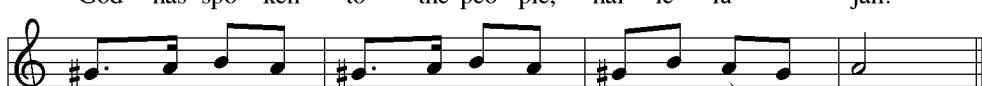
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - - jah!

Gospel Reading:

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

¶ The Gospel according to Luke.

¶ Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

¶ 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

Congregation's Choice

Blessing of the Backpacks – students and teachers

Students are invited to bring their backpacks and sit around the baptismal font for the Blessing of the Backpacks. Teachers and administrators are also welcome around the font.

¶ Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks,

¶ we are thankful for the many items you have gathered together as gifts to those who receive them.

¶ bless especially the children and young people who will wear them. As they go about the important work of being students,

¶ bless them with eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;

¶ encourage respect for teachers, aides, bus drivers, custodians, administrators, cafeteria workers, mentors, volunteers, and fellow students, that all may form healthy relationships;

¶ instill love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation;

¶ happiness when learning is easy and commitment when it is hard;

- C** and grant faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.
- P** We ask that you would protect these, your own children.
- C** Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school.
- P** As they learn, help them to discover the different gifts that you have given to each to be used in your work in the world.
- C** As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, reminding them of your never-ending love for them.
- P** Your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of teaching:
- C** give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them to train the hearts and minds of their students in wisdom and courage to face the challenges of life.
- P** Bless all school personnel with joy and satisfaction in their work;
- C** knowledge of the importance of their work;
- P** fellowship with colleagues and students;
- C** a spirit of patience, humility, helpfulness, kindness, wisdom;
- P** and good stewardship of the trust they have been given as servants of the public good;
- C** through the love of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

- A** Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

- A** Let us pray for all congregations gathered around the word and sacraments, that they be strengthened in their discipleship through these means of grace. 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, Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- A** Let us pray for the creation, that it thrives and flourishes. Make us good stewards of the land with all its vegetation, mammals, birds, and creatures of all kinds. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- A** Let us pray for all who lead and direct us: for elected officials, school boards, pastors, bishops, trustees, councils, ministry teams, business owners, judges, and community organizers. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- A** Let us pray for refugees, immigrants, prisoners, and all who seek new life. Show life and prosperity to those who struggle with injury or illness. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *John Burdick, Joyce Daugherty and the family of Tom Barnhart*. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Let us pray for our congregation and community, that they be safe places for all, especially the young and mature. Revive and refresh our hearts as we receive the forgiveness of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C 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 Hear us, O God.

C hear our prayer.

A Let us remember with thanksgiving the dearly departed who rest from their labors. Instruct us by their witness and bring us, with them, into the promised land. Lord, in your mercy,

C 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.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C 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

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 525 (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,

C 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.

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 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

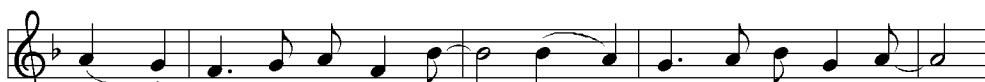
overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck - et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un-der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless-ed are you com-ing near. Bless - ed are you com-ing here



väl - sig - na-de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



2
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är nä - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

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

ELW 336 (red book)

Congregation's Choice

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.
C 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.

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798 (red book)

Sending

- A** Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C Thanks be to God.

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
Assisting Ministers	Lorie Gladyness	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Lorie Gladyness	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin Kay Marsh, John Burdick	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
Nursery	Volunteers	Volunteers
Chancel Team	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 11, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	Chris Bush	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Jack Barnaart
Usher	Dan/Melissa Patton	Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Gavin & Molly Patton	Dave Neeb, Ed Domke
Nursery	Steve/Peg Kaiser	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
Chancel Team	Volunteers	Children's Church
	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, September 4

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Monday, September 5

Labor Day – office closed

Tuesday, September 6

Executive Board 5:30 pm

Worship Committee 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 7

Prayer group 6:00 pm

Sarah Circle

Saturday, September 10

Youth to visit Franciscan Farm – Lowell 8:30a-1:00p

Sunday, September 11

MS/HS youth groups 5:30-7:30 pm

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 91

Weekly Giving: \$3,474.00

Budget Amount: \$4,233.32

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.

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.

Remodeling Project - Grace is looking for men and women who are interested in helping remodel the entrance area of our church. On September 10 at 8 am we need help hanging and finishing dry wall. If you have some time before the 10th, we have a few small jobs that need to be finished before we can hang dry wall. If you can help please contact Doug Neeb, 269-685-7831.

Regular Worship Hours – September 11, Grace returns to the regular worship hours, at 8:00 am and 10:45 am. Adult class will be held between worship services, beginning at 9:30 am. Children's Church, for kids age 3 through 5th grade, will also begin September 11th at the 10:45 service only.

Barry County Jail Worship - is scheduled for September 11. Please contact Doug Neeb, 269-685-7831, if you are interested in helping with this Ministry.

New Member Class – will begin September 18, 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.

Community Outreach – meeting scheduled for September 12 at the new time, 5:00-6:30 pm.

BOG – meeting September 13th, 7:00—8:30 pm, for all men of Grace & their friends/family.

Worship Leadership Training Class – if you are a worship leader and have not been trained over the last year, or you would like to become a leader (usher, assisting minister, reader/lector or part of the Table Guild), please attend this class scheduled for September 24, 10:00 am – noon. More on this next week.

Grace Pictorial Directory – Picture dates have been set for September 22, 23 and 24. There is no charge for the directory photograph and each person/family is given a free 8x10 portrait of the picture that will appear in the directory. If you have not made an appointment, the Team will be calling you.

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 Vickie Argo, 269-623-2348, if you would like to help.