

Grace Lutheran Church
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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

The Price of Worry

It doesn't take long before the effects of worry or stress are realized in the rhythm of daily life. The effects are often physical and personal, perhaps resulting in a lack of sleep or disruption in eating patterns. But worry can also be sensed collectively, for example, in a social group, community organization, or congregation. Worry can creep in when congregational giving is significantly behind budget. When a change in leadership results in members leaving. When things seem to be going all right but the youth aren't really showing up to church anymore. Changes like these are opportunities for God to use the gifts God gives us, but worrying can skew our attention. We may fixate on our vulnerabilities and what is missing instead of seeing the potential for God's provision.

Jesus tells a story about a property owner who goes away for a while, leaving the servants in charge. The first two servants have no time to worry about what to do with the money left to them. Perhaps they see the master's departure as an opportunity for their personal career advancement and are motivated to invest the money. Or maybe they are bold enough to make a decision because they know the master trusts them and they want to live in that trust. Whatever the motive, the servants are rewarded by being able to share in the master's joy. If they had let worry get the best of them, it would have been far more difficult to enter into that joy.

When worry gets in the way of experiencing the joy God desires for us, we would do well to turn our attention to practices that allow us to enter into that joy. Weekly worship with our faith community. Regular participation in holy communion. Prayer. Scripture study. Mutual conversation and listening. God has given us everything we need to live in trust.

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Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2017

Even though Reformation Sunday has passed, we continue to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the strides that have been made for a greater sense of unity, especially between the Catholic and Lutheran Church. We pray that the fire of the Spirit (represented by the color red) will continue to burn in all people of faith the passionate love for others that God has shown us through the life and ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* ELW 327 (red book)

Greeting

P 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.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration* ELW 167 (red book)

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray . . . Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.

C Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

L A reading from Zephaniah:

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.” ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

□ The word of the Lord.

▣ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-12

So teach us to number our
days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
from one generation to another.

¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.

³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night; □

⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. □

⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are
gone.

¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number | our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. 

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, 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 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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

¶ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his

master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

¶ The Gospel of the Lord.

¤ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

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

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

Here in This Place

WOV 718 (blue book)

Remain standing as you are able

Affirmation of Faith

¶ We affirm our faith as the body of Christ . . .

¤ We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God’s holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God’s glory. Amen

Sit or kneel as you are able

Prayers

¶ Welcoming God’s reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

A brief silence.

¶ We pray for the church. Enliven its witness in ecumenical ministries, feeding programs, and new ventures. Open our hearts to friendships that share faith, and open our mouths to share your good news. 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; Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lansing, Prairieville Bible Church*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul Nuechterlein. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon Pastor Ken Scheck, who was recently called for service to Grace. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for parks and open spaces, for clean air and clear water. Help us protect places where we are reminded of God's work in creation and find renewal. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for those who have been and are still today enslaved, trafficked, or oppressed. Make clear the needs of those who are silenced by suffering, that we may listen and bring an end to exploitation. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for those who cry out for healing, hope, or help, and for those for whom we have promised to pray. Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including *Danny Gillons, Mary Golnek, Gale Morway, Nathan Allyn, Abbie Kopf, Steve Kaiser, Jerry Knickerbacher, Barbara Macaully and Kris Gilbert*. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation and the talents and treasures each person brings. Bring new talents to blossom among us, as we encourage and build up one another. Also, make us ready to receive Pastor Ken, and his family, and bless us with renewed energy for mission and ministry. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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 prayer.

A Lord, our dwelling place in all generations, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in you. Teach us to count our days as gifts from you. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.

Stand as you are able

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need.

C The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

Continue standing as you are able

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- ¶ From the beginning Jesus shared meals with his disciples. Breaking bread and sharing the cup are powerful ways we remember that God shares the very stuff of life, and so do we. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. So come to this table, you who have been to this meal often and you who have not been for a long time. Come to this table, it is the Lord who invites you. Come to this table, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who feel you have failed. Come to this table for Jesus, the Christ, invites you to eat with God and meets us here.

Sit

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.

Lamb of God

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

Additional Verses:

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:
You are the way of justice and peace:
You are the way of mercy and love:
You are the bread of life for us all:
You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

Final time:

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674 (red book)

I am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup

ELW 492

Stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.
Ⓒ Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

- Ⓑ The love of God surround you; the grace of ☩ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

Ⓒ Amen.

☩ During the Sending Hymn, those who wish (especially children) are invited to come forward to make music and dance in the area in front of the pews on the left. There are instruments and scarves in and near the basket by the wall. ☩

Sending Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543 (red book)

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 72

Weekly Giving: \$2,927.00

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of boxed instant mashed potatoes and cake frosting.

Participation Cards - See the back of the participation card in the bulletin to indicate how you intend to welcome Pastor Scheck and his family (pre-printed address labels are in the basket on the coffee bar if you would like to send a card).

Advent Dinners - Please sign up to provide Advent Wednesday dinners (at 6 pm on Dec. 6, 13, and 20). See the sheet on the bulletin board in the coffee area.

For emergency pastoral care please contact Pastor Paul Nuechterlein, 269-290-4533. For other needs, please contact the church office at 945-9414 or Grace President Chris Bush at 517-614-5546.

Pastor Nuechterlein will be offering an adult class between services: studying *The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our "Correct" Beliefs*, by Peter Enns, during the month of November.

2018 Calendar is now up on the bulletin board outside the Parish Admin's office. All groups are responsible for writing down their meeting dates, events, etc.

Brothers of Grace - Calling all men 18 years of age and older to come and join us for the annual Brothers of Grace Christmas Dinner Outing at Kloosterman's Sports Bar Tuesday December 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. We are looking for a good turnout, so be sure and sign up on the sign up sheet located in the Gathering Area and try to invite others for a night of good food and fellowship.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, November 19

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Children's Church 10:45 am

Monday, November 20

Youth & Families committee 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tuesday, November 21

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Council 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving – office closed

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Melissa Patton	Gwen Hansen, Sandy Mosteller
Children's Church		Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Chancel Team	Volunteers needed	Kate Watson

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 26, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carol Vos	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
Usher	John Burdick, Kay Marsh	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church		Eve Wright
Chancel Team	Deborah Wilke	