

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 16, 2018

Baggage

Take any trips this past summer? Did you forget your toothbrush, or did you take everything including the bathroom sink? Packing is always a challenge, but unpacking can be even worse. Finally home, all the bags out of the car, the last thing anyone wants to do is put it all away, yet it's the cross we bear as punishment for going on vacation.

Sound ridiculous? It is, but we tend to think of denying ourselves and taking up the cross as carrying a bag full of punishment for being who and what we are. No one likes lugging around baggage; it weighs us down, hurts our bodies, and destroys our self-esteem. It makes us cranky, causes us to complain, and makes life miserable not just for us but for those around us as well.

The whole point of God sending us Jesus wasn't to make us cranky. Jesus didn't suffer death on the cross so we would have things to complain about, and he didn't call us to discipleship to diminish our self-worth. Denying ourselves isn't giving up chocolate for Lent or putting everyone else's needs above our own to our own detriment. Taking up our crosses isn't living with our own personal suffering or tolerating abuse from others. Jesus doesn't ask us to give up our identities or to carry hardship after hardship on our backs.

Denying ourselves means rejecting those things that keep us from being a part of a larger community. The one piece of baggage Jesus calls us to carry is relationship with others and for others. It won't always be easy to carry, because it leaves us vulnerable. Golgotha wasn't a vacation destination. But following Jesus means life with Jesus—and that means we never carry anything alone.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 16, 2018

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

Here In This Place

WOV 718 (blue book)

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The Holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love, be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



Prayer of the Day

▣ Let us Pray... O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives.

▣ **Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

▣ A reading from **Isaiah**:

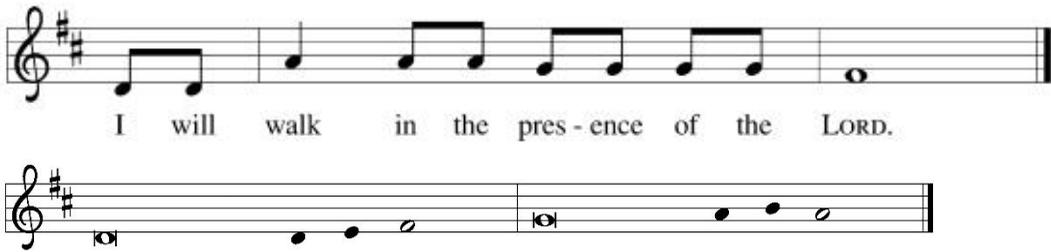
⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

▣ The word of the Lord.

▣ **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 116:

- ¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
**²for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**
- ³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.
- ⁴Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**
“**O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.**” ☒
- ⁵Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.
- ⁶The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.**
- ⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.
- ⁸For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**
- ⁹I will walk in the presence | of the LORD
in the land | of the living. ☒

Second Reading

James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

☐ A reading from **James:**

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire.

The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

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

Mark 8:27-38

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah;

and still others, one of the prophets.”²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayer

☞ Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s beloved creation.

A brief silence.

☞ Gracious God, you call your church to embody the love you have shown us. Raise us up each day to bear witness against sin, death, and the grave. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death, and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne,*

David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches Peace Lutheran Church of Sparta, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Creative God, quarks and galaxies bear witness to your imagination. Inspire scientists, naturalists, and conservationists who work to conserve precious natural resources. Grant us the wisdom to be good keepers of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Sovereign God, you bless citizens with the gifts of reason and perseverance. Embolden people around the world to seek the common good, to serve their neighbors, and to delight in freedom. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Parker Stancil (grandson of Freedlunds), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (nieces / nephews of Burdicks and Lance and Kayla Champaco (children of Lisa Pohl).* Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Loving God, you bless us with an abundant world. When your children wander homeless, hungry, and naked, strengthen us to be your presence as we care for all those in need, especially Tim Lowe, John Glasgow, Colleen Endsley, Olivia Marie, Arnold, Toni, 2 grandsons of Mary Jane Hayner, Larry Hansen, Carl, Wendy Eifler, Dan Anderson, Crop Walkers, and Family Promise. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Welcoming God, thank you for this congregation where we have found a home. Make us restless as we seek new and creative ways to expand our loving invitation to all people who seek a community. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

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 Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A In every time and in every place, you have raised up examples of loving service (*including Cyprian, bishop and martyr*). Make us all good and loving witnesses to your extravagant compassion. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

P Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **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 it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

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 our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy



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 and Acclamation

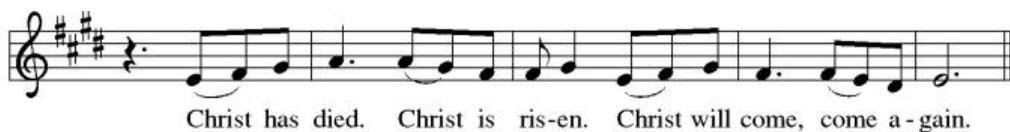
☐ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

☑ **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; 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink this cup we proclaim Christ Jesus.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

Congregation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

☐ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:



A - men, Come Lord Je - sus; A -
men, Come Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:



A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -
men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever.

☐ Amen

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is
yours, O God, now and for-ev-er,
A - - - men.

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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

- ☐ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

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:

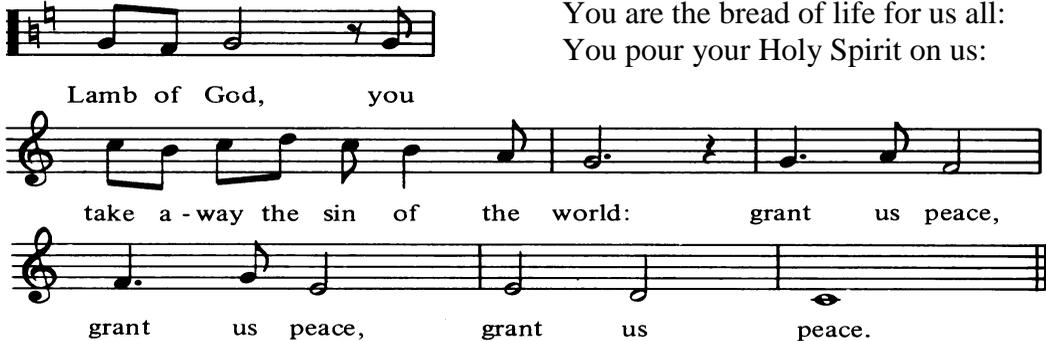
You are the way of justice and peace:

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.

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW 492

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

Taste and See

ELW 493

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.

G 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.

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

P 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.

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. In the weeks to come this will end and be replaced during Children's Time.

Sending Song

Soon and Very Soon

WOV 744

Dismissal

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

G Thanks be to God.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 16	Worship Services 8:00 and 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, September 17	GraceGram deadline for submissions
Tuesday, September 18	Council 6:00 pm
Wednesday, September 19	Church School Mtg 6 pm
Thursday, September 20	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:45 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Tracy Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark & Jana Bishop	Mark Anton & Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Volunteers	John & Mary Kleinbrink Eve Wright
Table Guild –	Wales Family	
Bread Maker –	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 23, 2018

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Pastor Ken	Mark Anton
Lector	Jack Vos	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Volunteer
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Lance Ogden
Usher	Kay Marsh & Dave Neeb	Ed & Luke Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Lyle & Joyce Proksch	Amy Poholski
Table Guild –	Wales Family	
Bread Maker –	Laura Scheck	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 109 Weekly Giving: \$4,598.00 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Adult Forum will meet at 9:30 a.m. What does Jesus say about piety and prayer? Come today and find out. Next week, come experience some warning signs.

Social Activities will meet Monday, September 17th at 6 pm.

Calling all teachers! The Sunday Church School teachers gather this Wednesday 6:00pm.

Family Promise Brunch on Sunday, September 30, between services at 9:15 am. Mark your calendars to attend. If you are willing to help in bringing food, please sign up on the bulletin board. A free-will offering will be received for Family Promise.

Carpet Debt Update. As of this week our debt is currently **\$5,823.38**. If every *baptized member* gave \$50.00 the debt would be gone. Prayerfully consider giving a gift beyond your normal giving to Grace and designate as “Carpet Fund”.

Brothers of Grace Retreat on Sept. 29th at the home of Joe Longcor (7521 Herman Dr, Delton). Doug Neeb will be leading us. Plan to stay from 8-11:30 am. For more details, contact Joe at 616-430-1225 or email him joelongcor@mei.net.

Fifth Sundays. The Lord says, *See, I am doing a new thing!* **Isaiah 43:19** Even though it does not seem like we are doing a new thing, we are. By not changing our worship times some many times, the community receives stability. Let us grow into this new thing.

Lakewood Area Choral Society will present a concert of sacred music at 3 pm on Sunday, September 23rd at Hastings Church of the Nazarene. Come and enjoy a great concert!

Congregational Care Committee will meet on Monday, October 1st at 3:00 pm.

Calendars – Orders now being taken for God’s Creation calendars at \$5.00 each. Order by Oct. 8 on the sheet in the Gathering Area. Payments can be made in the church office.

Funeral/Memorial Planning Class is scheduled for October 14, 2018. At a person’s death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn. At a funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Many can help their loved one by planning their own funeral. Come and learn what you can do to help your family celebrate your life in Christ.

Time and Talent Survey will be taken on September 30, 2018. Let us employ our time and talents to the Lord our God. You can find copies of these surveys posted on the board in the Gathering Area and the board outside the office. Other copies will be available for you to peruse as well.