

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 8, 2019

## A Centering Promise

The words from Jesus today might make us squirm a bit, and we might prefer to gloss over them. *Hate* our family members? Hate life itself? Give up *all* our possessions? It all sounds so extreme. But then again, Jesus is not known to mince words or soften the edges of his speech to suit our comforts. How do we begin to live into this life that Jesus demands?

Perhaps we should consider the question in a slightly different way: If we strip away everything from our lives, what remains? What rests at the core of all the other stuff? In our baptism, this question was answered once and for all, though we may forget it or even doubt it at times: Jesus is at the core of all we are and all we do. The cross rests at the center of who we are and all that we have.

Our possessions and even our healthiest relationships will continually try to mask or overtake the cross that marks our lives. We become convinced that our identity rests in our possessions and relationships. That's the nature of sin. But Jesus reminds us today that the cross centers all we do, all we have, and all we are—and that carrying the cross centers us in that gift.

The promise here is found in Jesus' command, "Follow me." He doesn't say, "Lug the cross around by yourself." He says, "Carry the cross and follow me" (Luke 14:27). The *follow me* is a gift. The *follow me* invites us to action alongside the one who first carries the cross for us. The *follow me* promises that we will never be alone. The *follow me* leads us to a new way of life centered in Christ.

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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.

# Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 8, 2019

*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.*

## Welcome/Worship Instructions

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Gathering Music

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660 (red book)

## Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

☐ We come to worship the One who brings us together.

☑ **Bind us together in love, Lord God.**

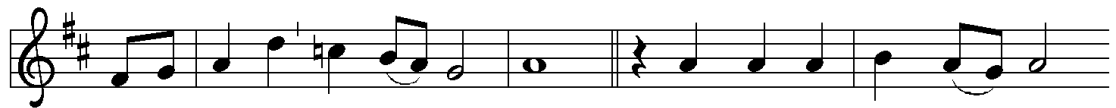
## Hymn of Praise

*This is the Feast*

ELW Page 140/141



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

- A** 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.
- C** **Finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20

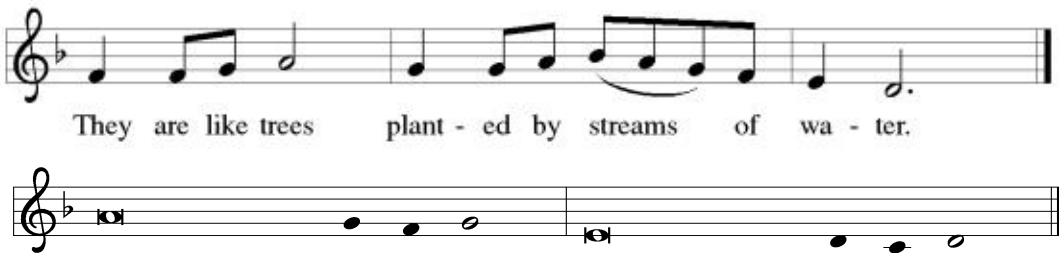
*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

### **L** A reading from **Proverbs:**

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If 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. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>I 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, <sup>20</sup>loving 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

### **C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy 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!

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed** 📖

## 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**:

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet 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. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no 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.

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

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

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

📖 The word of the Lord.

👉 **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

## Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## 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 Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“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. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For 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? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or 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? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So 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 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*

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Song of the Day

*What Wondrous Love is This*

ELW 666

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayer

**A** Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Turn our hearts, O God. Make us attentive to your call to take up the cross-shaped way of life, and to share your good news with a world in need. Guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, St. John Lutheran Church of Grayling, Hope Church of the Brethren, Freeport; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Bind us together, O God.

**G** **Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**A** Turn our hearts toward life in all its infinite varieties. We pray especially for all vanishing and endangered creatures who struggle to find a home in this world. Open our eyes to the value of our interconnected relationships within your natural world. Bind us together, O God.

**G** **Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**A** Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness. Where there is violence and conflict, grant peace. Where there is disparity, grant justice. Where there is hatred and fear, grant compassion and empathy. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Zack Green (Mikolajczyk), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).* Bind us together, O God.

**G** **Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**A** Turn our hearts toward all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those in bondage to sin, addiction, poverty, physical slavery or human trafficking, and those incarcerated or



detained. For those in any need we pray, including *Vivian Allarding, Chris Briggs and family, Gary Edwards, Delmer Hansen, Larry Hansen, George Ulrich, Jr., Justin (new job), Kim and Melinda (safe travel), JoAnne, Cameron, Vicky, and Marie.*

Bind us together, O God.

**☞ Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**Ⓐ** Turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregations that feed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced, and work for your justice. Embolden our hearts to labor without fear. Bind us together, O God.

**☞ Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**Ⓐ** 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.*

**Ⓐ** Turn our hearts toward your eternal reign. We give thanks for our sisters and brothers who have died, trusting the promise of life forever with you. Marked by the cross of Christ, inspire us by their examples to live in faith Bind us together, O God.

**☞ Hear our prayers raised to you.**

**Ⓟ** Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**☞ Amen.**

*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.*

*Arise in body or spirit*



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,



that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,



and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**Offering Prayer**

- A** Let us pray . . . God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.
- C** Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

**Sharing the Peace of God**

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- C** And also with you.

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

## The 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 our 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 the 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:

## Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

## Table Prayer

☐ Holy God, our 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 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;  
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, Christ's life given for us and rising from the grave,

☑ **we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.**

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

☐ By your Holy nurture and sustain us with this meal:

☑ **Strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make us the body of your Son.**

☐ All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**C** A - men, a - men, a -  
men, a - men, a - men.

## Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☑ **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

- ☐ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### Communion at Grace

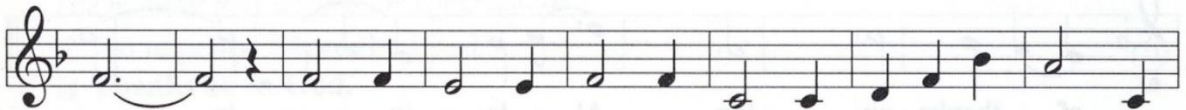
*All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.*

- ✠ **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. 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.

*Now the Silence*

**ELW 460**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

**ELW 471**

*I Received the Living God*

**ELW 477**

**Sending of Communion** (*only if needed*)

Ⓐ Gracious God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, you give new life through bread and wine: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☒ **Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed.

☒ **Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Mission Minutes**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Blessing**

☐ Be strengthened with the power of God, ✠ the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☒ **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

**ELW 535**

**Dismissal**

Ⓐ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

### Week at a Glance

<b>Sunday, September 8</b>	Worship Services at 8:00 am & 10:45 am Church School 10:45 am Noisy Offering both services
<b>Monday, September 9</b>	Outreach Committee Mtg 4:30 pm Social Activities Mtg 6:30 pm
<b>Tuesday, September 10</b>	Brothers of Grace mtg 7 pm
<b>Thursday, September 12</b>	Bell Choir Workshop 5:30 pm
<b>Saturday, September 14</b>	Family Game Night 6:30 pm

### Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Emma Peck	Traci Wales
<b>Cantor</b>	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Vos	Carol Morgan
<b>Communion Server</b>	Volunteer	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Lexie Watson
<b>Usher</b>	John Burkick/ Kay Marsh	Mark Anton / Sandy Mosteller
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Jack and Carol Vos	John and Mary Kleinbrink
<b>Children's Church</b>	~ ~	Doug and Diane Neeb
<b>Table Guild –</b>	Wales family	
<b>Bread Maker –</b>	Cindy Olson	

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 15, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Ken	Vickey Argo
<b>Lector</b>	Chris Bush	Jeanette Markwart
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jana Bishop	Phyllis Lietz
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Usher</b>	Mark / Jana Bishop	Ed / Luke Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark / Jana Bishop	Doug Neeb
<b>Children's Church</b>	~ ~	Kim and Lydia Markwart
<b>Table Guild –</b>	Wales family	
<b>Bread Maker –</b>	Catechism Class	

## Stewardship Information

**Worshippers last week: 75      Weekly Giving: \$4,369.00      Budget Amount: \$4,617.93**

**Adult Forum will meet today**, and study forgiveness and how it transforms community.

**Church School** begins today during the 10:45 worship service. The teachers are excited about teaching our young people. We hope that God's grace is revealed during this time of learning.

**Outreach Committee** will meet tomorrow at 4:30 pm.

**Social Activities Committee** will meet tomorrow at 6:30 pm.

**Brothers of Grace** resume monthly meetings this Tuesday at 7 pm.

**Next Sunday** at the 9:30 am hour there will be a training of council liaisons and chairs of committees. Find out all you need to know to do your ministry.

**Women of Faith** will resume monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Mallard Pond (1:30-3 pm).

**Bell Choir Workshop** will be held this Thursday, from 5:30 – 8 pm., including dinner. If you plan to attend or are interested, please contact Kim Domke.

**High School Youth** are going kayaking on September 22, 2019 from 1-4 pm at Jordan Lake. Space is limited, please RSVP to Ang Pruitt at 810.348.6767.

**Mark your Calendar! September 29<sup>th</sup> Single Service at 10 am:** Outreach Committee is organizing a Brunch following the service with proceeds supporting Crop Walk. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Gathering Space. Just write in your last name and place an "X" under the column for the type of food you wish to bring.

**Save the Date for Crop Walk 2019!** Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, Middleville United Methodist Church.

Your **Social Activities Committee** has scheduled a **Game Night for this Saturday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 pm** to be held in the Gathering Space. Please bring your favorite board game (or other tabletop game), and a snack to share (optional). Beverages will be provided. Please sign up on the form provided on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. If we have over 25 people signed up, we will set up in the Fellowship Hall. **FAMILIES WELCOMED!** Direct questions to Deborah Wilke at 269.953.8216 (call or text).

**Barry County Food Bank** needs soup (cream of mushroom & cream of celery), Hamburger Helper, bottles of Juice, saltine crackers and stuffing mix. Please consider dropping off a few items.

**Mutual Ministry:** If there is a ministry concern, please contact Pastor Ken. Pastor is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 269.370.4632.