

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 12, 2021

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

*Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We experience the abundance of God's grace. Yet, we Christians are warned not to take advantage of the poor and weak. Rather, we are to uplift those who suffer. Jesus is an example for us, as he taught us that we need to reach out to the outcast among us.

## Welcome/Announcements

## Temple Talk (10:45 only)

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

### Greeting

*Please rise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

- P** The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**
  
- A** Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- C** **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**
  
- P** All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- C** **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**
  
- A** All colors and races give hearty praise!
- C** **Let us share your love with all. Amen**

## 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

*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.*

<sup>4</sup>The 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.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I 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.

<sup>7</sup>The 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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.*

### **Psalm 116 1-9**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

**<sup>6</sup>The LORD watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**<sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

📖 A reading from **James**.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or 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. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And 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. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can 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.**

*Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Spoken*

**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

**Mark 8:27-38**

*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.*

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus 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?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>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."

<sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>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.**

## Children's Time

### Message

*Silence for reflection*

**Hymn of Day**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**ELW 798**

## Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Lord, in your mercy.** The assembly prays,  
**Hear our prayer.***

- A** Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

- A** Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. We especially ask you to be with our leaders and ministry partners *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion St. John Lutheran Church, Grayling, Yankee Springs Bible Church, Middleville, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- A** Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- A** Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- A** Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. We especially name before you *Doris Allerdig, Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Joyce Daugherty, Family of Jennie Darnell, Pat Wales Depew, Ray Depew, Mike Fruth, Megan Germain, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Hope Palmer, Chris Reynolds, Cynthia Rudesill (healthy pregnancy), Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, Russ Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- A** Forming God, you gather Grace Lutheran Church. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy.

**G** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

*Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.*

### **Sharing the Peace**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**G** **And also with you.**

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

*After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.*

## Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for the blessing of your presence.
- G** **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that our lives may reflect your generosity, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** **It is right to give our 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 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 forever.

**G** **Amen.**

**P** 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 from this cup, we proclaim that Jesus is among us.

**G** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

**G** **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

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

*Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.*

*Please remain seated.*

## Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy and fed us at your table.

☞ **Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Mission Minutes

*After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.*

## Blessing

☞ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

☞ **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**ELW 733**

## Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## Who Are You?

“Who do people say that I am? . . . But who do *you* say that I am?” (Mark 8:27, 29). Jesus’ questions to the disciples highlight a distinction between what society at large recognizes about him, and what those closest to him know. From the outside, Jesus looks to many people like an important prophet or great moral teacher at best; at worst, he is an irrelevant rule-giver.

To those who know him, though, the answer is different. We who have been baptized into his family and nourished with his body and blood, we who hear his voice in the words of absolution and the promises of scripture, we who have felt his healing power through the gift of the Holy Spirit know just a bit more. This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Like Peter, even we who know the story may wish to reject the necessity of Christ’s death. The words of the beloved Holy Week hymn echo deeply, “Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?” (ELW 343).

Who are you? You are a sinner in need of redemption, the one for whom Christ has died, a beloved child of God, and a sibling of your Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter not for Peter’s compassion or desire for Jesus to avoid suffering, but because the compassion and desire are misplaced. We need a Messiah—and we have one—precisely because we don’t need any more prophets, moral teachers, or irrelevant rule-givers. We are sinners who need forgiveness. We are broken people in need of healing. And we have found what we need in Jesus, the Messiah. The world will always set its mind on human things; may the Holy Spirit set your mind on divine things and continue to confirm in you the truth of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and raised on the third day for you.

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## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 47    Views: 50    Weekly Giving: \$3,009.00    Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

**The website DONATION button will be changing.** In the next few weeks, you will see a change when you hit the DONATION button on the webpage. We are changing vendors. So, if you have automatic payments being made, you will need to update your information when the new vendor takes over. The change is being done, so that we can be good stewards of the money we are being given through your gifts. The new vendor will save Grace Lutheran Church hundreds of dollars a year.

**We need your plastic shopping bags!** Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

**Adopt-a-highway on September 25.** Meet at Grace at 8:00 a.m., back about 10:15 to 10:30. Sure could use some help. Let Joe Longcor {(616) 430-1225} know if you have questions...easy to social distance :-)

**Brothers of Grace (BOG)** is getting together on September 14 at Grace from 7 p.m. to 8:30p.m. Devotion, old/new biz, and very likely a snack with coffee.

**“Books for Kids”** is a program that allows a book to be purchased for a student each month. Your \$20.00 donation will allow one student to receive a book each month. You may give cash or write a check (**payable to Grace Lutheran**). You may place your gift in a pew envelope and mark the outside of the envelope **“Books for Kids”**. We’ll stop collecting money in two weeks.

**Devotional booklets** are available to be picked up. We thank the Outreach Committee for providing these for our spiritual walk.

**Church School** was to resume the Sunday after Labor Day. Due to several reasons, the startup time is postponed. The major reason is Eve Wright is having health issues and is scheduled to have hip replacement surgery. If you are interested in taking over the administration of Church School, please contact Pastor Ken or Jamie Heise.

**Adult Forum** continues to gather in the Gathering Area and will continue its study on the book of **Genesis** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

**Seeking readers, fellowship providers (make coffee and lemonade for our fellowship time), ushers, greeters and Assisting Ministers.**

**Mask wearing.** The Worship Committee is asking you to wear your mask during singing. You are welcome to wear your mask at all times if it makes you more comfortable. *Thank you for your flexibility, as we keep needing to adjust to the virus changing.*

**Grace is seeking a Parish Administrator,** if you have any people that might be interested in this ministry opportunity, please call the church office.



**The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis.** If you are interested in going, please let Jamie Heise or Pastor Ken know by today.

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Chris Bush**  
**Lector – Jamie Heise**  
**Cantor – Cindy Olson**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo**  
**Lector – Joe Longcor**  
**Cantor – Cindy Olson**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck**  
**Fellowship – Watson Family**