

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
July 24, 2022

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Let us celebrate God's presence among us at all times. We know the unique gift we have of God meeting our every need. Let us give praise to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open our lips,
C and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
- A** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
C that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- P** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
C who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Gathering Song

God is Here

ELW 526

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve.
- ☩ **Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

- ℣ A reading from **Genesis**:

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

- ℣ The word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**⁸You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

☒ A reading from **Colossians**:

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

He Comes to Us as One Unknown
Verses 1 & 5

ELW 737

Gospel Reading

Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”²He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Song of the Day

When Morning Guilds the Skies

ELW 853

Prayers

We sing the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly will sing:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

A Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.
A brief silence

A Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Hope Lutheran Church, Rockford; Middleville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.**

A Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources (*local water sources may be named*) and strengthen those who defend them. Hear us, O God.

C **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.**

A Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Be with those who safeguard the world, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Hear us, O God.

C **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.**

A Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer especially *Jenny Anderson, Veronica Baarson, Marc Benda, Keith Busheé, Cherie Clements, Deanna Darnell, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Gene and Julie Fogarty and family, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Jeff and Sue Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Charlene Hall, Judy Heil, Mike Hoppe, Bill Melcher, Annette Poholski, Susie Smith, Jackie Stapel, George Ulrich Jr., Carol Vos, and Cheryl Wilke.* Hear us, O God.

G **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.**

A Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered*

A Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. Hear us, O God.

G **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.**

P Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

G **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

G **And also with you.**

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

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 this bread and wine.

G **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ 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 always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

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:

G **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

G **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.**

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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

P God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Communion Songs:

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup

ELW 492

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.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

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.**

Sending Song

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – The Freedlunds

God's Goodness Doesn't Sting

Sometimes when people are in need, they pray. And then they wait. They wonder. They wait some more, and pray some more. *Is God listening? Will God answer my prayer?* Some people may worry that they have done something to deafen God's ears to their needs. Maybe they fear they are unworthy to be heard and helped, or that their lives don't matter. Maybe they just give up on themselves and on God.

Jesus is well aware of the challenges of being a person of faith and trusting in God when life is tough. He invites people into a deep trust in God. Why? Because God gives us everything we want, even if it is bad for us? No! God doesn't give scorpions to sting us, even if we ask for them. Jesus invites people into a deep trust in God because of God's profound goodness. Jesus urges us to ask God for the sustenance we need: bread, fish, eggs, mercy, justice, love. God will give us such good things because God is so good.

The heart of Jesus' message is rooted in God's goodness. It is not centered on our worthiness, but on God's generous heart. God is good. God is merciful. God is compassionate. God responds to our need out of that benevolence. The Good One gives good things for those in need. This is who God is for us.

This doesn't resolve our tough and appropriate questions about when and how prayers get answered. It does tell us that we are invited to trust that we are cared for no matter what. We are provided for beyond our comprehension, not because of *our* goodness, but because of *God's*. We can come forward to Christ's table—hungry for acceptance, longing for the bread of mercy—and know we will receive that bread in our hands.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 61	Views: 94
Weekly Giving: \$4485.00	Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Renew Campaign Needed \$4342.00	
Renew Campaign Received \$ <u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding \$4342.00	

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who realizes our limitations.

Grace Lutheran Church is seeking a Nursery Attendant during the 10:45 worship service.

Relay for Life The 2022 Barry County Relay for Life is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. at Tyden Park in Hastings. For more details and to donate, please see the display in the Gathering Area, or contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024.

Time and Talent Surveys Please don't forget to fill out your 2022 Time and Talent Survey. Physical copies were distributed in the July/August edition of the GraceGram, or you can pick one up from the Gathering Area. If you wish to complete your survey electronically, visit the Grace website and follow the link on the righthand side. Completed physical copies can be returned to the Gathering Area envelope.

Reminder from the SAC Please sign up for the Car Show on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Indicate how many people are coming in your group and if you will bring a dessert and specify if it will be cake, pie, cookies, etc. The Worship Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. with lunch at 11:30 a.m. (no Coffee Hour). Entrees, side dishes, and beverages will be provided.

7th Annual Grace Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Do you own a classic or antique car, truck, or motorcycle? Do you enjoy looking at older model vehicles? Please come join us Sunday, July 31st for the 7th Annual Grace Car Show. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. for vehicles and the outdoor service begins at 10:00 a.m. under the tent. There will be food at 11:30. Come join the fun!

Prayer Request List Just a reminder that you may add people to the prayer list by writing their names on the bottom of the weekly participation card, or by calling or emailing the office. The deadline for the weekly bulletin is the Wednesday at Noon for the following Sunday. Thank you for your prayer updates.

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. Now we enter into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 for a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.