

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

August 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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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! 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

Greeting

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

☐ The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

☐ You are the treasured people of the Lord,

☑ **a people holy to the Lord our God.**

☐ Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children

☑ **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

☐ One does not live by bread alone,

☑ **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Gathering Song

All Are Welcome

ELW 641 (vss. 1-3)

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray.... O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble.

☑ **Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

📖 A reading from **Proverbs**.

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

📖 A reading from **Hebrews**.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -
 2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of
 3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,
 sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,
 dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.
 rip - ened in this fruit and grain.
 take, O God: they are our prayer.

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☒ Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Songs of the Day

Let us Go now to the Banquet

ELW 523

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **Your mercy is great.***

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

A brief silence

- Ⓐ For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Guide and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Prince of Peace Lutheran, Rose City; Nashville Baptist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Hear us, O God.

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Be with those who safeguard the world, *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Hear us, O God.

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving especially *Jenny Anderson, Veronica Baarson, Marc Benda, Keith Busheé, Cherie Clements, Patti Comp, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Kathy Engle and family, Jack Fiedler Family, Gene and Julie Fogarty and family, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Jeff and Sue Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Charlene Hall, Judy Heil, Mike Hoppe, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Duane Myers Family, Rick Palmer, Annette Poholski, Susie Smith, Students and Teachers (they have little or no anxiety as they return to school), Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Cheryl Wilke, the family of Jim Wyrick, the family of Rob Young, and Jenny.* Hear us, O God.

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ For all the saints who confessed God's name, we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hear us, O God.
- ☞ **Your mercy is great.**
- Ⓟ Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
- ☞ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☞ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ 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.
- ☞ **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**

Thanksgiving Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
- ☞ **We praise you, O God.**
- Ⓟ Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
- ☞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise. We bless you, O God.**
- Ⓟ We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
- ☞ **We thank you, O God.**
- Ⓟ 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.

☞ Amen. Remembering love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

☞ We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

☞ Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first 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

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ Thanks be to God.

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Song

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 474

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

Prayer after Communion

☞ 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.

☞ 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

- ☐ 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.
☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

All Are Welcome

ELW 641 (vss. 4-5)

Dismissal

- ☐ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

The Round-Table Ethic

Jesus teaches his followers that social norms and expectations no longer apply in the dinner parties he offers. Tradition in Jesus' time said that the honorable sat in places of esteem at a dinner. The lowly were crowded down at the other end. This form of sharing a meal reinforced the social patterns of giving honor to the wealthy and powerful and shaming those who were poor and outcast. Jesus will have none of this.

The legends of King Arthur say he gathered the knights of the kingdom at a round table. A round table has no head seat of honor and therefore no lowly seat of shame. Arthur did this to help preserve peace in the kingdom. He brought together knights from many regions speaking different languages. Some of them were former enemies now reconciled. Some came to Great Britain from as far away as Africa and the Middle East. The round table created a space of equality. This equality supported peace and reconciliation.

Jesus critiques the social norms of his day and ours. He instructs his followers to host dinner parties that honor those dishonored in the community and that humble those who are privileged. The spirit of his teaching is similar to Arthur's round table: when we gather people together, we do so with a deep sense of equality among persons. In the church, this equality is rooted in God's grace that welcomes all to the table.

One of the most profound ways the church witnesses to and enacts the gospel is to gather around dinner tables, sacred tables, public and private tables, giving everyone a place of honor. Sometimes this means simply including those who have been excluded. Sometimes it means giving voice to those usually silenced. Always it means generously feeding and nourishing bodies and minds in the name of Christ. It is a gift to be a community that enjoys fellowship at the round table of Christ.

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Prayer requests can be written down on the podium as you enter the sanctuary. It is located near the bookshelf. When you write your request, the assisting minister will add it to the prayers.

GraceGrams can be picked up today. They are in your mailbox.

Books-for-Kids is an outreach project sponsored by our Outreach Committee. Our goal again this year is to purchase age-appropriate books for needy students in Shayna Gibbons classroom. Contributions should be marked "**Books for Kids**". Donations are due by Sunday, September 11.

Brothers of Grace September Outing at Joe Varkula's house on Tuesday, September 13. There will be sausage and some fixings. Please bring your beverage. You may also bring a dish to share if you wish but it is not necessary. The brothers will leave the church at 5:00 p.m.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 52	Views: 118
Weekly Giving: \$2,407.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$3,942.00	
Renew Campaign Received \$ <u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding \$3,942.00	

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 sits among us and gives us life.

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.

Congregational Care will meet Monday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Varkula. Thank you.

CROP Walk Sunday, October 9th. Registration begins at 1:30, Walk starts at 2:00 PM. Grace will be the host congregation this year. Watch for information on how donations are used both locally and internationally on the display table in the gathering area in September. Walker and donation envelopes will be available at the same time. Light refreshments will be served as walkers return to our church.

Heritage Sunday on Sunday, October 30. We will be gathering together for a combined 10:00 service celebrating Reformation Sunday. There will be a meal directly following the service where you are encouraged to bring a dish to share you feel represents your heritage. Come join the fun!

Game & Pizza Night The S.A.C. cordially invites you to an evening of fun at church on Saturday, September 17th. We will begin with pizza & beverages at 6pm, play a few games (if you have a favorite, bring it to church!), and enjoy fellowship until 9pm. Please RSVP by signing up on the form located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area (we need to know how much pizza to order). If you forget to sign up, just call the church and Brenda will add your information to the form. Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216 with any questions, or to let her know you will need a ride (or just indicate this on the signup sheet).