

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

September 4, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 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.

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.

Greeting

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

- ☐ The love of our Creator, revealed by Christ Jesus our Lord and sustained through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Opening Sentences

- ☐ Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- ☑ **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**

- ☐ All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- ☑ **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**
- ☐ All colors and races give hearty praise!
- ☑ **Let us share your love with all. Amen**

Song of Praise

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray.... Direct us, 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; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

📖 A reading from **Deuteronomy**.

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. 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.

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

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

¹Happy 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!

**²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

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

**⁴It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**⁶For 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 Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

📖 A reading from **Philemon**.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

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

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident 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

Speak, O Lord



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
 of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
 dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
 church is built, and the earth is filled with your



glo - ry.

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the 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.

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

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection, please rise in body or spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

God’s Work, Our Hands

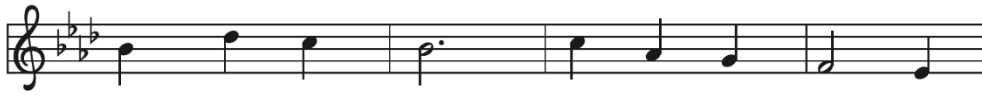
ACS 1000



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Prayers

*You may sit or kneel for prayer. The prayer response after each petition is, **God of grace. The assembly prays, Receive our prayer.***

- Ⓐ As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. Guide and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Ascension Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Nashville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of grace.

- Ⓒ **Receive our prayer.**

A For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. 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)*. God of grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care *especially Jenny Anderson, Veronica Baarson, Marc Benda, Walter Brown, Keith Busheé, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Jeff and Sue Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Charlene Hall, Mike Hoppe, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Susie Smith, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Cheryl Wilke, and Jenny*. God of grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

P Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.
- ☑ **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**

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

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

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Songs	<i>Take my Life, that I May Be Will You Come and Follow Me</i>	ELW 583 ELW 789
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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	<i>Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus</i>	ELW 802
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Dismissal

- ☐ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Fine Print of Discipleship

A lot can go wrong in our lives. If you ever have any doubts, just read the fine print in a contract, where every worst-case scenario is spelled out. Sometimes we appreciate having those challenges hidden away. When we are jumping into something new, it may be easier to take the leap if we don't dwell too much on what can go wrong.

But that's not the approach Jesus takes when describing the commitment of discipleship. Instead, he uses big, bold terms to emphasize the struggles and conflicts ahead. Discipleship with him will mean taking up a cross. It will mean confronting our most deeply held commitments—our possessions, relationships, and identities. In fact, the cross at the center of discipleship will be so burdensome that it will seem impossible to shoulder.

Jesus' words might scare us off if we miss the other half of the agreement. He doesn't ask us to carry our cross alone. He will be with us as a partner who has already taken the journey from death to resurrected life. In discipleship, Christ leads us and brings the power of God to meet our challenges. Yes, Christ will call us to share the pain of his cross. He will call us to die to old habits, stuck ways of thinking, and broken relationships. But he will also share with us the victory of his cross and the power to rise to new life.

At baptism, we were marked with the cross of Christ forever. That cross marks all of the deaths we will face, but it also marks the beginning of an eternal life with God. Every time we gather in Christian worship, we participate once more in Christ's journey from death to life. Around the table, we gather as Christ's disciples, sharing the overwhelming burden of his cross but also its even more abundant victory. Here, our crosses are transformed by the community in which they are held and by Christ, who leads our way.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Diane Neeb

Turkeyville Trip Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8 for a fun trip to Turkeyville. The signup sheet is on the Gathering Area bulletin board. Please sign up and submit payment to Deborah Wilke by 9/12/2022. Cost is \$44 per person and is limited to the first 24 people to sign up. We will carpool from church and maps and directions will be provided. See signup sheet for additional information.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 40	Views: 156
Weekly Giving: \$6,052.28	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$3,942.00	
Renew Campaign Received <u>\$ 500.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding \$3,442.00	

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 challenges us give our entire lives to service.

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.

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 next Sunday (Sept. 11).

Brothers of Grace September Outing at Joe Varkula's house on Tuesday, September 13. There will be sausage and fixings. Please bring your beverage. The brothers will leave the church at 5:00 p.m.

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 - Save the Date

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 or 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).