

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 27, 2023

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.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

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

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645

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

- A** Let us pray... O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life.
C Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

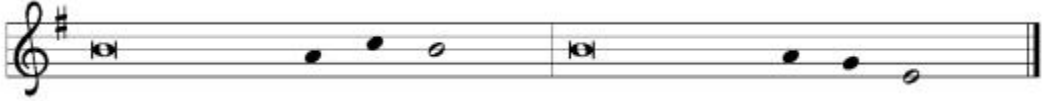
¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙌 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138



R Refrain



O LORD, your stead - fast love en - dures for - ev - er.

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

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast ¹love and faithfulness; for you have glorified
your name and your word a - ¹bove all things.**

³When I called, you ¹answered me;
you increased my ¹strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words ¹of your mouth. **R****

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹of the Lord,
that great is the glory ¹of the Lord.

⁶**The Lord is high, yet cares ¹for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your pur - ¹pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works ¹of your hands. **R****

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

☐ A reading from **Romans**:

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with the first line of lyrics under the first staff and the second line of lyrics under the second staff. The lyrics are: "A - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ya! al - le - lu - ia!".

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Receive our prayer, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us mercy.***

- A** Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.
A brief silence.
- A** God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; Grace Brethren Bible Church, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Receive our prayer, O God.
- G** **You give us mercy.**
- A** Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Receive our prayer, O God.
- G** **You give us mercy.**
- A** Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Receive our prayer, O God.
- G** **You give us mercy.**
- A** Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm and allow those who are sick to know your loving presence especially *Veronica Baarson, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy Cove, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Gibbons, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Tina Kemper, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie Osborn (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, Kay Wagner, and the Family of Matt Wilke.* Receive our prayer, O God.
- G** **You give us mercy.**

A Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

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**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓔ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

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

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.**

Table Prayer

☐ 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 his 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



San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
 earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

- 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.
- P 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.
- P Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C **Amen**

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

- ☐ God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Lamb of God

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace.

Communion Songs

Beautiful Savior
We All are One in Mission

ELW 838
ELW 576

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.
- C** **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.
- C** **Amen.**

Sending Song

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW 820

Sending

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

Postlude

Dare We?

There are lots of possible truthful answers to Jesus' question "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13): prophet, teacher, storyteller, healer, wonder-worker, rabble-rouser, friend, exorcist, Nazarene, Jew, son of Joseph. We come to know one another from many angles: in experiences and relationships; by what others say; on Facebook, Twitter, the six o'clock news; at Monday coffee group, happy hour; through factory newsletters, class yearbooks. One might be, all at once, author, gardener, mother, felon, philanthropist, swimmer.

Jesus begins by asking what people say about him—what's the word on the street? As expected, responses are a mixture of religious, political, and personal perspectives. Then Jesus cuts closer, exacting from his disciples their answer. "Who do *you* say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15). It might seem that he's quizzing the group with a trick question to see who answers rightly and thus gets rewarded with keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Peter's answer gains him the glory. If that episode was all Matthew's gospel recorded, we might conclude that Peter did, in fact, recognize Jesus more clearly than the others. But every one of the disciples had made that very same confession, "You are the Son of God," in the safety of a seaworthy boat with Jesus on a calmed sea (Matt. 14:33). In this sense, Peter's response was predictable.

However, Matthew bothers to write that this happened in Caesarea Philippi, also known as Paneas, site of a famous shrine to Pan, god of shepherds. Named for Caesar, the emperor, and Philip, ruler of the region, it is identified with imperial power. In the context of tremendous political and religious forces, Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

In this sense, it is a brave confession when Peter names Jesus—not Caesar—as Chosen, Lord, and presence of God. Jesus' way of blessing the world contradicts all that empire is about. On that confession the church is called to stand—today. Dare we?

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8:00 am

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

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Kristi Winick
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

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 is named Christ, the Son of the living God.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 48	Views: 242
Weekly Giving: \$1815.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Grace Projects: \$200.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$7,740.65	- Note starting need was \$25,000.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 0.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$7,740.65

Grace Projects needs your support as Council has voted to ask for funds to help pay for our \$1,000.00 deductible for the roof replacement and repair. Thank you for considering giving towards this need. Thanks to a generous gift, we now only have \$800.00 to go to fully fund this need.

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Adult Forum studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there when we resume next Sunday.

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Books for Kids Please consider giving toward our books for kids program. Each gift of \$20.00 will ensure that a child will be provided a book in Shayna Gibbons classroom. Thank you for your consideration in helping with this ministry need. We still need **\$290.00** to meet our goal. Thank you for your support.



The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students and their families. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. Please place all donations

in the box at the front entrance. Donations are due towards the end of each month. This month the donations will be packed at Green Street Methodist on August 30th.

Women of Faith There has been interest in resuming the Women of Faith Bible study group. There is a brief survey included in today's bulletin. If you are interested, please fill out the survey and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

RELAY FOR LIFE Sept 16th from 10am-10pm Tyden Park in Hastings~ All are welcome to this free event to *support the fighters, admire the survivors, honor the taken!* More details and an important sign-up for the survivors' dinner on the bulletin board to help with meal planning. Please return any **luminaries** by Sept 5th, donations accepted at Grace through Sept 10th, after that please make donations online at RELAY FOR LIFE of BARRY COUNTY or to a walker during the event.

BOG Brothers of Grace are meeting on a new night this year. They are gathering at 6:00 p.m. for their first meeting on Thursday, September 14. Gentlemen mark your calendars, and we'll see you then.

Social Activities have planned a trip to Turkeyville on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$58 each which includes a turkey meal and the play *Forever Plaid*. The deadline for sign-up is Sunday, September 17. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more details and information regarding payment.

Congregational Care Meeting The Congregational Care Committee will meet **Monday, September 11 at 3:00 p.m.** If you have questions, please contact Sharon Varkula.

Community Worship and Meal On Sunday, October 29, Grace Lutheran Church is having a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. The Grace Notes Bell Choir is ringing, the worship style will be similar to the outdoor service, and our meal will allow people to express their heritage. You are encouraged to bring a dish of food to celebrate your ethnic background.