

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 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

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

Gathering Song

Bind Us Together

WOV 748

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

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

Prayer of the Day

- ☞ Let us pray... O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
☞ **Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah:**

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Ⓛ The word of the Lord.

Ⓢ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8



Ⓢ Refrain



Your love is be - fore my eyes; I have walked



faith - ful - ly, faith - ful - ly with you.

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and ¹have not faltered.

²**Test me, O ¹LORD, and try me;
examine my heart ¹and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is be- ¹fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- ¹ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat ¹with the worthless,
nor do I consort with ¹the deceitful.** Ⓢ

⁵I have hated the company of ¹evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- ¹cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession ¹round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song ¹of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹derful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in ¹which you dwell
and the place where your glo- ¹ry abides.** Ⓢ

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

📖 A reading from **Romans**:

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

📖 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 key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

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

*i*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 a - le - lu - ya! *i*A - le - lu - ya!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

☐ 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.

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

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.**

- Ⓐ Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.
A brief silence.
- Ⓐ God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; Grace Community Church of Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Receive our prayer, O God.
- ☞ **You give us mercy.**
- Ⓐ God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Receive our prayer, O God.
- ☞ **You give us mercy.**
- Ⓐ God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. 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.
- ☞ **You give us mercy.**

A God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and ensure fair wages and safe working environments. We name before you those in our community or family that need your tender care: *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, Jennifer Rohr, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, Kay Wagner, and the Family of Matt Wilke.*

G **You give us mercy.**

A Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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 - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.
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.

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

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
Blessed Assurance

ELW 492
ELW 638

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

Day by Day

ELW 790

Sending

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

Postlude

More Than a Logo

If the church has a universally recognized logo, it is probably the cross. But branding was probably not what Jesus was thinking about when he invited Peter and those who would come after him to take up their cross and follow. The cross that Jesus calls us to carry alongside him is instead the means by which God chooses to reveal grace in the midst of death.

Rather than follow in the way of Jesus, sometimes the church can simply get in the way. We want to be good followers. We want more people to experience what we have. But sometimes in our desire to draw larger crowds, we end up putting ourselves—our music, our ministries, our outreach—at the center and subtly leaving God aside. In the midst of a world that drives us to always want more, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves. The denial to which Jesus calls us is not about putting ourselves down or neglecting our own needs. But it is about centering the cross of Christ in our lives so that our desires and dreams begin to arc ever more in the direction of God’s love and mercy at work in the world.

The cross that Jesus took up didn’t just belong to him. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on either side, and the Romans crucified many more. The cross is more than a logo; it is a symbol that joins us to a suffering world. The cross is not an individual burden to carry; it is the whole church’s work. Crosses adorn our steeples and worship spaces, but worship also empowers us to take up the issues of the day that are matters of life and death for so many, such as war and violence, housing and food security, racism and climate change. When we shoulder these “crosses” together, the church doesn’t make its own way; we follow the way of Jesus.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Vicki Tebo

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Joe Longcor

Cantor – Paul Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

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. May we be empowered to share in Christ's ministry.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 44	Views: 206
Weekly Giving: \$4075.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Grace Projects for Roof: \$250.00	
Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$7,740.65	- Note starting need was \$25,000.00
Lifting Up 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 generous gifts, we now only have \$550.00 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 in need in Hastings schools. 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. In addition, September items are as follows; individual snacks, peanut butter (small jars) individual toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. This month's donations are due by September 24. Green Street Church has expressed their gratitude for our participation in this program.

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.

Crop Walk Mark your calendar for the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 8.