

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 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

Gathering Song

Lord of Light

ELW 688

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

ELW page 167

Refrain

The image shows the musical notation for the Refrain of the Hymn of Praise. It consists of three staves of music in a single system, all in treble clef and G major. The first staff begins with the word "Refrain" above it. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain on page 2



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right

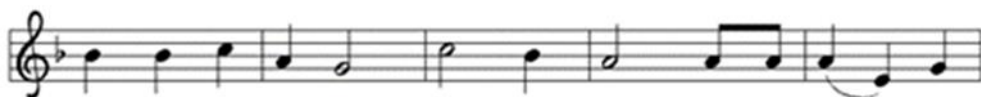


hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain on page 2



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.
- Ⓒ **Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

℣ A reading from **Jonah**:

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

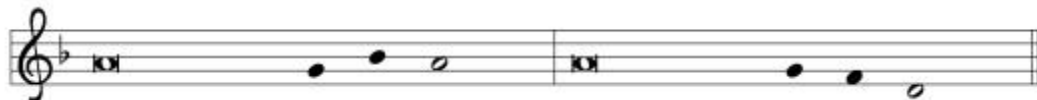
⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8



📖 Refrain



The LORD is slow to an-ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. 📖

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. 📖

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

☒ A reading from **Philippians**:

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

☒ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

TTF Page 50



☑ Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

📖 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, **God of Grace**. The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer**.*

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and David, our synod companions Saint Paul Lutheran Greenville, Grayling; Hastings Assembly of God; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. 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)*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind *especially Veronica Baarson, Annette Bonogofsky, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy Cove, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Gibbons, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Tina Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie and preemie Charlotte Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Kay Wagner*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. God of Grace.

G **Receive our prayer.**

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

Create in Me

TFF Page 55



G Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

hold me with your free Spir - it.
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your hands and feet in the world.**

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.**

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



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
- ☑ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**
- ☐ 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 the Lord's death until he comes.
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ☐ Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
- ☑ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**

- ☐ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
- ☑ **Through Christ 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

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

Lamb of God

TFF Page 39



☑ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

I Come With Joy

ELW 482

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004

- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,

tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
 so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
 shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;

pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Prayer after Communion

- ▲ Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.

☑ Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

☐ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

☑ Amen.

Sending Song

Ten Thousand Reasons

ACS 1097

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,
O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;'. The second staff contains 'wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,'. The third staff contains 'O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an-ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail-ing, the



. . . it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my



pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand



sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

Refrain

Sending

- Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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 continues to save each one of us. We are called to look at each other as equals in the body of Christ. Those who work all their lives and those who work just a few weeks receive God's grace freely and generously.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 53	Views: 250
Weekly Giving: \$1,918.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Helping Hands: \$200.00	Food Pantry: \$60.00

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.



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; microwave popcorn, 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 **TODAY**. Green Street Church has expressed their gratitude for our participation in this program.

All Saints Sunday All Saints Sunday will take place this year on Sunday, November 5. There will be a sign-up soon in the Gathering Area.

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.

Worship Committee Meeting will be held **TODAY** September 24 after 10:45 service.

Daily Bread for Everyone

We all have a natural sense of justice, and of what is fair. We might easily conflate the two, but justice and fairness don't always lead to the same end. Jesus' parable of the landowner and the workers suggests that God's sense of justice might not seem fair to everyone. Our ideas of what is right are likely upended by the landowner's generosity. He gives to each worker not what they have earned but rather the "daily bread" they need.

Sometimes in the church's ministry, we behave in a spirit exactly opposite that of the parable's landowner, opting to be "fair" above all else. So, for example, the food pantry can insist on the same items in the same amount for everyone, or the soup kitchen rules dictate that everyone get the same thing on their tray. Yet everyone doesn't always have the same needs. What if instead of fairness, we also made a way for generosity to sometimes disrupt the rules? There are good reasons for insisting on fairness. Rules establish helpful boundaries. Fairness can help ensure that when resources are scarce, everyone has a chance to receive something. Yet, in the name of fairness, we can also overlook both God's abundant generosity and the actual needs of others.

Maybe Jesus' parable doesn't mean changing the rules altogether. But maybe it means leaving ample space for those situations in which emulating God's generosity means bending the rules. God's grace frees us from a stubborn insistence on "only what's fair" so that we can care for others with generous spirits. No matter when we come to the baptismal waters, God's word of grace is enough to cover our sins. No matter our circumstances when we are gathered at Christ's table, God's generosity means there is always enough for each and every one of us to receive the daily bread we need.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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 – Jack Vos

Cantor – Ken Scheck II

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

God's Creation Calendars are available for \$5.00 and are provided as a ministry of outreach for you to share with relatives, neighbors, coworkers, friends, teachers, letter carriers, the homebound and caregivers...anyone you think who would have their day brightened by this lovely calendar with its inspiring Bible verses. They are provided at a low cost to purchase and share, and are not a fundraiser. Pick up your calendars in the Gathering Area and pay in the envelopes provided. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, or on the parish administrator's desk. Thanks for supporting this ministry.

Funeral Meal Coordinator Needed Your help is needed if you have interest in being a volunteer funeral meal coordinator. A funeral meal coordinator arranges and works with volunteers who wish to provide a lunch or dessert for funerals based on family requests. If you are interested and would like to work with other volunteers to provide this service to our congregation, please contact the church office or a social activities committee member.

Educational Opportunity The Mitten Synod is sponsoring class entitled *Kaleidoscope in Christ*; a five-week study focusing on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. This study will be held via Zoom on Sundays from 4:00-5:00 pm and will run for five weeks (**Beginning today, Sept. 24 – Oct. 22**). If you are interested in more information, please visit <https://www.mittensynod.org/event/kaleidoscope-in-christ/>

Social Activities have planned a trip to Turkeyville to see the play *Forever Plaid* on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m. for those who signed up.

Book Study A book study is being considered for Sunday mornings sometime this fall. If you are interested in studying Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, please contact the church office or Pastor Ken. If we have enough interest, the study would begin in October. Books will be available for the maximum cost of \$24.00.

CROP Walk The annual CROP Walk is taking place on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at Middleville United Methodist Church. The walk begins at 1:30. For more information please contact Mike Kemper.