

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
October 22, 2023

# Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

October 22, 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

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW 583

## 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

*This is the Feast*

ELW pages 140-141

### Refrain

☑ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

! Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

### Refrain

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain on page 2

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain on page 2

4 For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Fiscal refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer of the Day**

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts.
- Ⓑ Created by you, let us live in your image; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

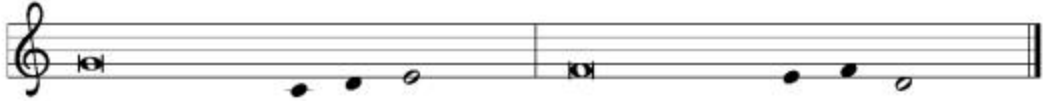
📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96:1-13**



**Refrain**




As - crite to the LORD hon - or and power.

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD<sup>1</sup> a new song;  
sing to the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from<sup>1</sup> day to day.**


<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a-<sup>1</sup> mong the nations  
and God's wonders a-<sup>1</sup> mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly<sup>1</sup> to be praised,  
more to be feared<sup>1</sup> than all gods.** 

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they<sup>1</sup> are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have<sup>1</sup> made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are<sup>1</sup> in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your<sup>1</sup> sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families<sup>1</sup> of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon-<sup>1</sup> or and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the<sup>1</sup> holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts<sup>1</sup> of the LORD.** 


<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau-<sup>1</sup> ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The<sup>1</sup> LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo-<sup>1</sup> ples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the<sup>1</sup> earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that<sup>1</sup> is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-<sup>1</sup> ing, O LORD,  
for you come to<sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the<sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peoples<sup>1</sup> with your truth. 

## Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

☐ A reading from **1 Thessalonians:**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW Page 151**



## Gospel Reading

**Matthew 22:15-22**

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

☞ 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

*All My Hope on God is Founded*

**ELW 757**

*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**.*

☞ Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland; Hickory Corners Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace.

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of Grace.

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. 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** Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering especially *Veronica Baarson, Annette Bonogofsky, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy Cove, Jet Cover, Bill Darnell, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Tina Kemper, Angie Kuhlman, Norma Ludlow, Martha Mizak, Virginia Moomey, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie and preemie Charlotte Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, the family of Bill Parsons, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Theresa Streffling, Randy Teegardin, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Kay Wagner*. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of Grace.

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of Grace.

**C** **Receive our prayer.**



Ⓟ Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Ⓞ Amen.

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Offering Song

### *Create in Me*

TFF Page 55

Ⓞ 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.

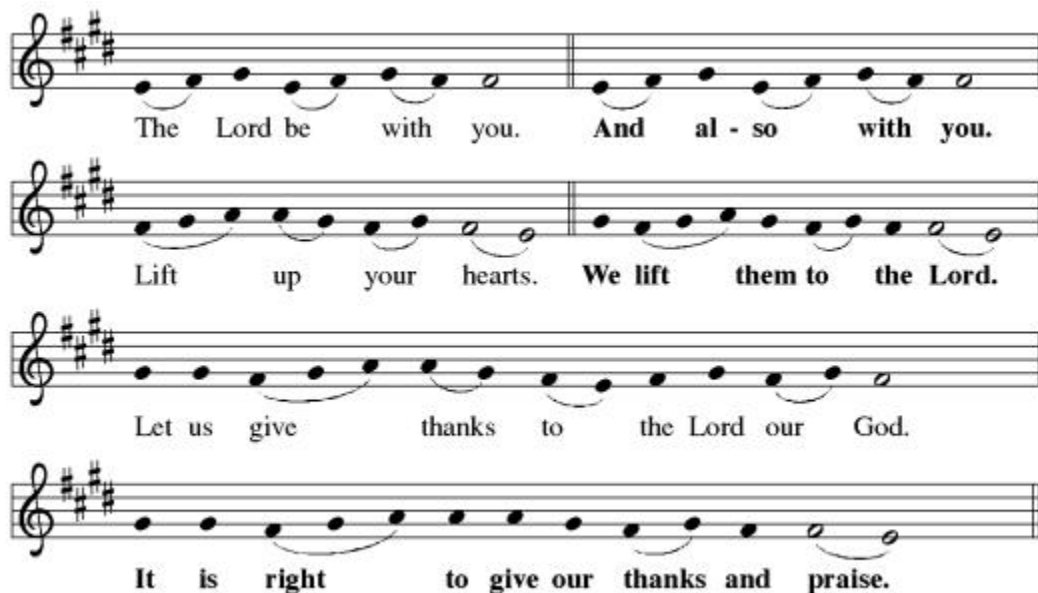
## Sharing the Peace of God

☐ 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:



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;



## Communion Songs

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
I Received the Living God*

ELW 834  
ELW 477

## 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

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW 705

## Sending

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

## Postlude

## Coins and Foreheads

It sure would be nice if Jesus had said his followers don't have to pay taxes. It would be wonderful to be able to say when taxes come due, "Gosh, I wanted to pay my taxes, but Jesus said I don't have to, so . . ." Of course, Jesus didn't say that, so we're not off the hook!

But Jesus says a lot more here than just "Pay your taxes." He encourages people to rethink their relationship with money and government in light of their relationship with God. He uses a coin of the Roman Empire to make a point. The coin bears the image of the emperor. So, if the emperor wants his coins back, go ahead and give them to him.

But then Jesus puts a limit on how much allegiance and loyalty to pay to the emperor: "Give . . . to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Like so many coins that bear the images of great leaders, we are told in Genesis that we each bear the image of God. Give to God what is God's! Give yourself, your heart, your soul, your mind, your will to God! Don't give any of that to those who demand you pay taxes. God has a claim on you, not those in power.

At times we might feel a dilemma when it comes to balancing our loyalties among our government and civil obligations, and our loyalty to God. But the message is clear: We belong to God. God claims each of us as beloved, as valuable, as worth more than coins or gold or dollars.

In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ on our foreheads. We bear the image of the Crucified One who claims us by grace. At the table we are fed and nourished, welcomed and loved, because of the one who tells us our lives have great worth.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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### **8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**  
**Lector – David Neeb**  
**Cantor – Cindy Olson**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

### **10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mike Kemper**  
**Lector – Gwen Hansen**  
**Cantor – Paul Kuhlman**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**  
**Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman**

**Community Worship and Meal** A week from today, Grace Lutheran Church is having a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. The Grace Notes Bell Choir is ringing, and our meal will allow people to express their heritage. You are encouraged to bring a dish of food to celebrate your ethnic background.

**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.

**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.

**Trunk-or-Treat** is Tuesday, October 31 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. We invite you to bring candy. We expect a large turnout once again so many volunteers will be needed to host treat rooms, serve apple cider, donate bags of candy, and greet all the little ghosts and goblins who stop by. Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted on the gathering room bulletin board and we still have plenty of room for anyone wanting to help. We will ask room hosts to gather at the church around 4:00 PM to decorate your room.

**Counters Needed** Grace is in need of 2 new money counters. Training will be provided, and you will serve on a rotating basis. Please let Deborah Wilke know if you would be interested.

**Bratwurst Sale** If you would like to order some homemade brats, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Brats will come frozen in packages of four and are \$6.00 per package. Pick-up will begin on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Jesus makes us free to share to love of God.**

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 57  
Weekly Giving: \$3,434.00  
Paper Gator: \$60.94

Views: 230  
Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



**Grace Projects** As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252. We appreciate any contributions toward this future need of caring for our building.

**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** has its final study of Proverbs in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am.

**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, October items are as follows, individual snacks, creamy peanut butter (small jar), snack pack pudding, Slim Jims, ranch dressing (small bottle), and microwave popcorn. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. This month's donations are due **TODAY, October 22.**

**All Saints Sunday** All Saints Sunday will take place this year on Sunday, November 5. Sign-up sheets come down next Sunday.