

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Let us celebrate God's presence among us at all times. We know the unique gift we have of God meeting our every need. Let us give praise to the Holy Trinity.

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

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

Greeting

- P** Grace be with you from the Holy Trinity; our true God, who comes to us with the love of a parent, redeemer, and upholder.
G **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

Opening Sentences

- P** Come, let us be filled by the Holy Spirit.
G **For the Lord gives us strength when we are weak in faith.**
- A** When we are cold in love,
G **Warm us with fervor so we may love our neighbors.**
- P** God's bountiful goodness fills all creation.
G **Let all colors and races give God hearty praise. Amen**

Song of Praise

God Alone be Praised

ACS 1023



- 1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek-ing ref - uge, ex - iles
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries.
- Ⓑ **Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

℣ A reading from **Genesis**.

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I

will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**²My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**⁶the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

**⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

📖 A reading from **2 Timothy**.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



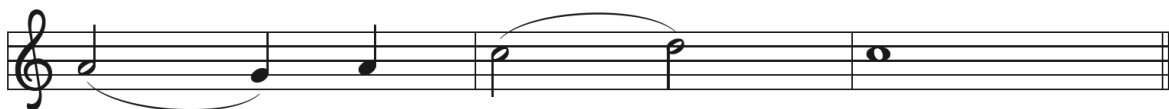
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
 Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

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

Song of the Day

Rock of Ages

ELW 623

Prayers

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

- Ⓐ In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer, *especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Peace Lutheran Church, Sparta; Pleasant Valley United Brethren, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of grace.

- ☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. God of grace.

- ☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Be with those who safeguard the world, *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* God of grace.

- ☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace (*especially*), that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. God of grace.

- ☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓟ With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- ☞ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you.

- ☞ **And also with you.**

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

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.
- ☑ **Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Thanksgiving Prayer

- Ⓟ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim that Jesus is among us.

- ☑ **Amen. Remembering love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓟ We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.
- ☑ **Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓟ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- Ⓟ Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Songs

Taste and See

ELW 493

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
- G** **Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
- G** **Amen.**

Sending Song

We are Called

ELW 720

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Praying Like It Matters

The unjust judge in Jesus' parable admits that he eventually decides to grant the persistent widow justice because she has worn him out by continually "bothering" him (Luke 18:5). And this is the character to whom Jesus compares God? Is Jesus trying to tell us that God feels worn out and bothered by our prayers? That's not a very comforting notion.

Of course, that interpretation misses the very first line of this passage, in which Jesus specifically says the parable is meant to underscore the importance of prayer. The widow's diligence is set as a spiritual example. She is confident in her case. She knows she deserves justice, and she will not stop until she is heard. What would it look like if we prayed with the kind of conviction this woman displays? We would know that our prayers matter, that they can make a real difference in our lives. Like the widow, we too would believe that justice can and will become reality.

Actually, we do pray this way every time we say the Lord's Prayer. When we call out to God, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven," we are praying like the persistent widow in Jesus' parable. We can be certain God hears that prayer and shares that dream for humanity. It is not prayer that wearies God, but human sinfulness and injustice.

God is nothing like the unjust judge because God's vision for our world is one that centers on generosity, compassion, and care for the vulnerable. The unjust judge may need to be hassled repeatedly before he will relent, but God is already overflowing with abundant mercy, even before our prayers are spoken. So, let us take heart and pray always, with our words and with our actions, as we join God's mission for a more just world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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 shows us the true way of justice.

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.

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 being posted on the gathering room bulletin board. We will ask room hosts to gather at the church around 4:00 PM to decorate your room.

Counters Needed Grace needs 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.

Women of Faith Bible Study is meeting Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at Grace. All ladies welcome. Additional information is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Pasty Sale is on November 4. If you would like to order, please see the form in the Gathering Area. If you'd like to volunteer to help, there are sign-ups for that as well.

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 studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays 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 on **October 22**.

All Saints Sunday will take place this year on Sunday, November 5. Please use the sign-up sheets so we can honor your saints. The deadline for inclusion is Sunday, October 29th. You can always add them yourself on All Saints Sunda