

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2020 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHER AN CHUR CH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

Flowers

Flowers are given in memory of Ruth Laux by her family.

As We Gather

Sinners and slackers. From the streets of Nineveh to the landowner's vineyard, we are confronted today with deeply human stories. What is most human, however, is neither the sinning nor the slacking; it is the response of the hardworking, the righteous. When God shows mercy and generosity, they get angry. There goes God again, steadfast in love and slow to anger, handing out forgiveness and abundance to anyone, no matter how little they deserve it. The gospel constantly confounds our idea of fairness. God insists upon grace, giving Jesus to guarantee it. Perhaps we should stop worrying about whether or not we're getting our fair share and focus instead on working to make sure our neighbors have enough. That's what the kingdom of heaven is like.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Gebet (Prayer), Op. 65a

Bernhard Eduard Müller

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- @ Amen.
- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- @ Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- P Most merciful God,
- We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

 As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **Q** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

We sit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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.

6 The 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. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When 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?"

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1–8 John W. Becker

ANTIPHON: The Lord is slow to anger and of great kindness.

- I will exalt you, O | God my King,* and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- **©** Every day | will I bless you* and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised;* there is no end | to his greatness.
- One generation shall praise your works | to another* and shall de- | clare your power.
- I will ponder the glorious splendor | of your majesty* and all your | marvelous works.
- They shall speak of the might of your | wondrous acts,* and I will tell | of your greatness.
- They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;* they shall sing of your | righteous deeds.
- **☑** The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,* slow to anger and | of great kindness.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21–30

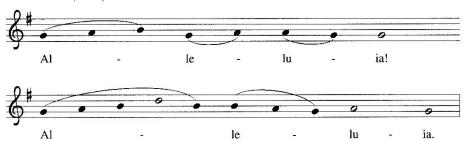
[St. Paul writes:] For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is 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.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE Carl F. Schalk

- L Alleluia.
- **G** REFRAIN (below)



- © Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.
- **©** REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

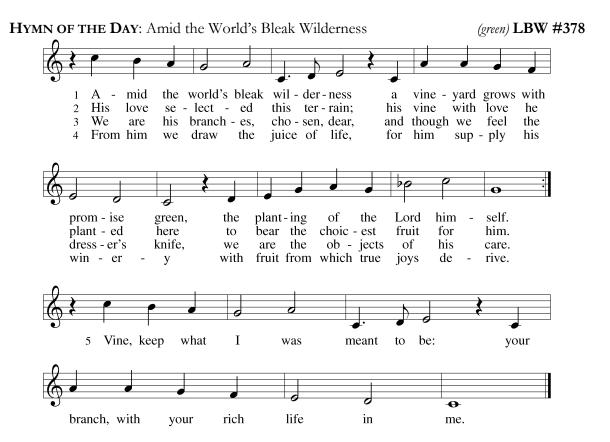
[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle 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.' When 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. 11 And 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."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: God Being God

Pastor Dave Lyle Matthew 18:21–35; Jonah 3:10–4:11



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: GRANTON, Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM: O God, Have Mercy (from St. Paul)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

O God, have mercy upon me, and blot out my transgressions, according to thy loving kindness; yea, even for thy mercy's sake, deny me not.

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Spirit from me, O Lord.

Lord, a broken and a contrite heart is offered before thee. I will speak of thy salvation, I will teach transgressors, and all the sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Then open thou my lips, Lord, and my mouth shall show forth thy glorious praise.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- A Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- Amen.





Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Presto

Georg Philipp Telemann transcribed and arr. L. W. Chidester

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, organist
Douglas Anderson, baritone
Johanna Johnson, horn
Al Swanson, videographer
Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Annalise Balock Cathy Barker Ruth Barker

Len Berghaus Anne-Marie Bogdan Ed Borg

Anne-Marie Bog Ed Borg Hans Dumpys Ken Folgers Dennis Forgue Marilyn Gotsch Belen and Ron Gresens Carl and Donna Gruendler David Gruendler

Kathy Hale Kathy Hayes Ken Heppner Patricia Herendeen Jerry Koenig Paul Lochner Beth Smoots McClanahan Karen McMahon

Jennifer Murtoff
Paul Nelson
Adrienne Rott
Tim Sandyoss

Joan Koerber

Marge Sanger Pat Scala Carl Schalk Carol Shea Madison Staples

Madison Staples Rich and Bonnie Stasack Stephanie Wilkening

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell)

Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel)
Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz)
Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson)

Elvis Burleson (son-in-law of Tina Moore)

Mark Carter (friend of Lance Wilkening)

John Cattau (nephew of Dan Cattau)

Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack)

Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel)

Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein)

Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Joan Fudala (mother of Greg Fudala)

Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz)

Dean Gesme (father of Karen Brunssen and Martha Nielsen)

Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen)
Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Ryan Hall (nephew of Judy and Jim Kerns)
Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason)
Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner)
Marian Hogue (mother of Merrily Smith)
John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner)

Rob Kay (brother of Tom Kay)

Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson)

Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten)
Sally Kindsfater (sister of Mary Jane Endicott)
Lenny Kobilca (friend of Deanna Marotz)
Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat)
Ron and Jeanette Koski (parents of Jill Koski)
George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma)
Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson)
Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson)
Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson)

Mary Jane Kuehnert (friend of Stephanie and Lance Wilkening)

Maxx Kusper and family (friends of Deb Maxwell)

John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson) Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich) John Lauritzen (former Grace School student)

Lily (friend of Carrie Douma)

Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli) Jane Martin (mother of Justin Martin)

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell)

MaryJo Meyer (aunt of Brooke Schedler)

Don and John Moehlenkamp (brothers of Marilyn Moehlenkamp) Robert Neer (nephew of Roberta Gillespie and Margaret Kruse)

Joan Nelson (mother of Julie Modrich)

Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester)

Kathi Parisi (friend of Debbie Conley)
Rosie Parker (mother of Cameron Parker)
James Pawlowski (brother-in-law of Jennifer Staples)

Becky Peterson (friend of Jennifer Staples)

Decky retersor (friend of Jennifer Staples

Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt)

James Powers (friend of Al Swanson)

Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott)

Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba)

Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson)
Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson)
Bonnie Robinson (friend of Julie Hinz)
Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Shirley Moyers Schnack (sister-in-law of Randy Schnack)

Linda Schroeder (aunt of Anne-Marie Bogdan)
John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma)
Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner)
Ken and Lori Shoup (friends of Marilyn Heppner)
Teresa Smith (cousin of Marilyn Heppner)

Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten)

Lee Stephens (brother of Tony)
Konrad Swider (friend of Al Swanson)
Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester)
Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone)
Ilene Thompson (sister of Marilyn Heppner)
Donald Tremper (brother of Virginia Walker)
Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel)

Brian Walden (relative of Pat Gulik)

Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz) Sonja Wandro (sister of Al Swanson)

Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen)

Robert West (friend of John and Carol Stanger)
Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas)

Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz)

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois

Thanksgiving for

The birth of **Sofia Pardo Harb** (granddaughter of Lois Harb) The wedding of **Hailey Sroga and Ron Aleszkiewicz**

For those who mourn

Alice Kubly (friend of Adrienne and Ron Rott) Linda Mitterer (former member of Grace) Mary Retsema (sister of Barb V an Heukelem) Shirley Tennis (aunt of Carol Stanger)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus)
Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout)
Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks)
David Danford (son of John and Karen)
E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting)
Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz)
Brent Knop (great-nephew and godson of Martha Rohlfing)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (Germany) Drew Krueger (England)

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes Walt and Carolyn Martin Christopher Davis Joanne Nelson

Marie Gierke Barbara Rinnan
Ronald Gresens Kathleen Wrobel

Gloria Hillert

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oregon Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher)
Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone)
Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie)
Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss)
Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat)
Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)	
MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
PHONE NUMBER	

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- □ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail,
 - Sunday Is Coming.
- □ I would like one of the pastors to contact me
 via (check one) □ Phone or □ E-mail.



7300 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 Phone: (708) 366-6900 Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse
Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager