

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**LIFT WORSHIP
LET'S BUILD BEDS**

September 13, 2026



PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING LITANY

L: Together we are gathered in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Jesus, son of Joseph, carpenter from Nazareth:

C: **We gather to worship you this day.**

L: With hands like a carpenter:

C: **We offer our own hands to cut, sand, finish and assemble the wood provided for us.**

L: With the mind of a servant:

C: **We offer our time to build beds for children who are in need of a place to rest.**

L: With the heart of a disciple:

C: **We know these beds provide much more than a place to rest. What we build is a safe haven and a sanctuary for those who need it most.**

L: With the hands, mind, and heart of Christ:

C: **We glorify you in all that we do this day. Amen.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Verses 1 & 2– All

Verse 3 – Women

Verse 4 – Men

Verse 5 - All

THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you!**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE READING

ROMANS 14: 1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on

slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

R: The Word of God, for the People of God!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 103:1-13

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather for an activity by the chapel.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

L: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the

reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him,
²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with
his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made.
²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with
me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of
that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave,
as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a
hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you
owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have
patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and
threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow
slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they
went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord
summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that
debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy
on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord
handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So
my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not
forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

THE REFLECTION

PR. MATTHEW WHEELER

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 482

I COME WITH JOY

THE CREED

L: Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHOIR

I Sing Because I'm Happy
Arr. Kenneth Paden/Rollo Dilworth

Please stand.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 186

CREATE IN ME

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE DIALOGUE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

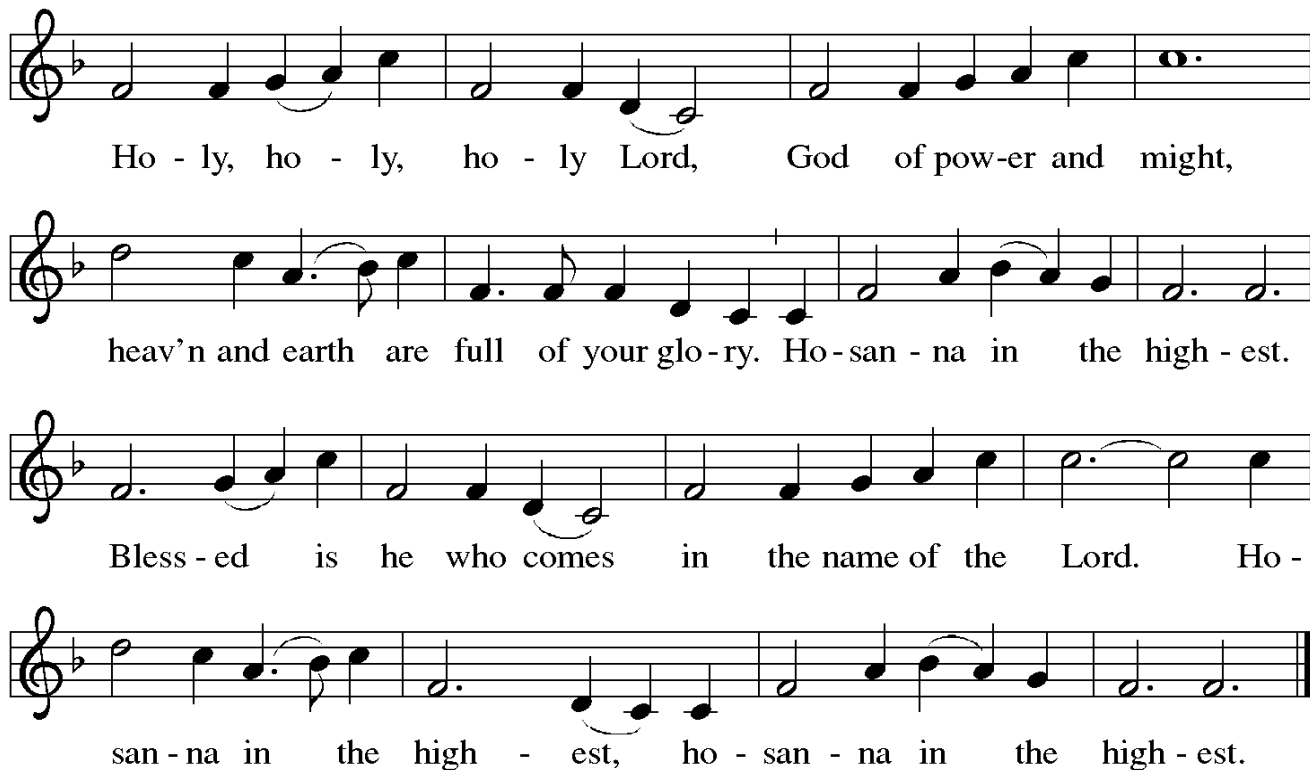
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

L: 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:

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In your mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, so that all who believe in him should not perish but have the gift of eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

L: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

C: 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.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Heaven has come near. Come and share the Feast!

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 471

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 479

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

After all have communed, you are invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

L: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine you have united us with Christ to our stories of old. Together, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

L: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW # 731

EARTH AND ALL STARS

THE SENDING

L: Heaven has come near.
A: Go, share the good news!
C: **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING IN WORSHIP	
Greeters: State Street	Connie Amor, Annette Fisher (Grace)
Greeters: Baker Street	Kim Diedrich, Mary Jurovik (St. Mark)
Greeters: Parking Lot	Ed & Beth Muffler (Grace)
Readers	Wendy Ritzman (St. Mark) Helen Biddinger (Grace)
Worship Assistant	Becky Seibert (Grace)

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Earth and All Stars! text & music 1968 Augsburg Publishing, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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I Come with Joy Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

We Come to the Hungry Feast text & music 1982 Ray McKeever

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting #10: 2026 Augsburg Fortress

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Our Custodial Team:

Jim Post
Michaelle Goodman
Andrew Bailey

WELCOME TO GRACE!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again. PLEASE NOTE: Our worship is live streamed on Facebook.

OFFERING – Loose offerings collected today will be given to support The Bridge of Hope ministry. All preprinted envelopes will be sent to the congregation listed on the envelope. If you forgot your envelope and want your gift sent to your home congregation, please write your full name and your church's name on one of the white envelopes found in the pew racks. Thank you for joining us for worship today.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of parents, Ralph & Mary Lou Kinsey, by their children Gregg, Connie and Pam and their families.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given as a gift to the congregation. (Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast [cost is \$72.50 and please make checks payable to BAS Broadcasting.], should contact the church office.)

THIS WEEK, AS YOU PRAY please remember: Lyn, Diane Berryman, Peggy Dorr, Tracy Michles, Jackie Mowry, Mary Nossaman, Tim Rutherford, Ginger Starrett, Julie Stawowy, Connie Wasserman, and Bob Wickert.

THE SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS SOME EXTRA HANDS TO HELP ON SEPTEMBER 24. Our normal volunteers have told us that they will not be able to help that day because they are running their own fundraiser. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tracy Michles.

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION AND BACKPACK BUDDIES NEEDS OUR HELP!

We are currently in need of the following items: oatmeal packets, Nutri-Grain bars, cold cereal, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, individual mac-n-cheese cups, pasta cups, cans of soup, individual heat and eat soups, individual serving cups of peanut butter, cups of applesauce, fruit cups, sandwich crackers, pudding cups, cookies, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, chips, pretzels, granola bars, Teddy Grahams, microwave popcorn, Ritz crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, milk, yogurt, beef sticks, Oatmeal Cream Pies and peanuts. Monetary donations are also appreciated. These gifts help us to fill in any gaps in donations. Your check should be made payable to LIFT and please write Backpack Buddies on the memo line.

Called to Present the Light of Christ!