

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The 17th Sunday
after Pentecost**

September 20, 2026



PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen.**

A: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Compassionate God,

C: **We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

ELW # 469

BY YOUR HAND YOU FEED YOUR PEOPLE

THE GREETING

P: 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

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

EXODUS 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

PSALM 149

The Cantor will sing the verses as the congregation response in singing the refrain.



Sing the LORD's praise in the as - sem - bly of the faith - ful.

¹ *Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.*

² *Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.*

³ *Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.*

⁴ *For the LORD takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory. Refrain*

⁵ *Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.*

⁶ *Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,*

⁷ *to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,*

⁸ *to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,*

⁹ *to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah! Refrain*

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 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.

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter.

C: **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. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he

saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And 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?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When 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.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, '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.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

THE REFLECTION

PR. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 494

FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

P: Gracious God, as we place our hands on these Quilts, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ.

C: We celebrate being the children of God.

P: We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these Quilts: donations of fabric, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the squares, design the patterns, sew the tops, iron the fabric, make backs and fillers, tie and stitch the bindings, provide publicity, donate boxes, pack the Quilts, bring food to sustain the quilters and contribute the money for shipping these Quilts.

C: We celebrate generosity.

A: We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the Quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

C: We celebrate community.

P: We send these Quilts as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their Quilt will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of Christ's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God.

A: We pray that these Quilts will serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient; that they will bring warmth in the cold, shelter from the sun and heat, a wall for a home, or a carrier for a few precious belongings. May it be a step in recovering one's life and a message of care from someone they may never meet.

C: We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

- P: We remember those who have received our Quilts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.
- C: **We celebrate the gift of life.**
- A: We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.
- P: Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: 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

CHOIR

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

Please stand.

OFFERING SONG

We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

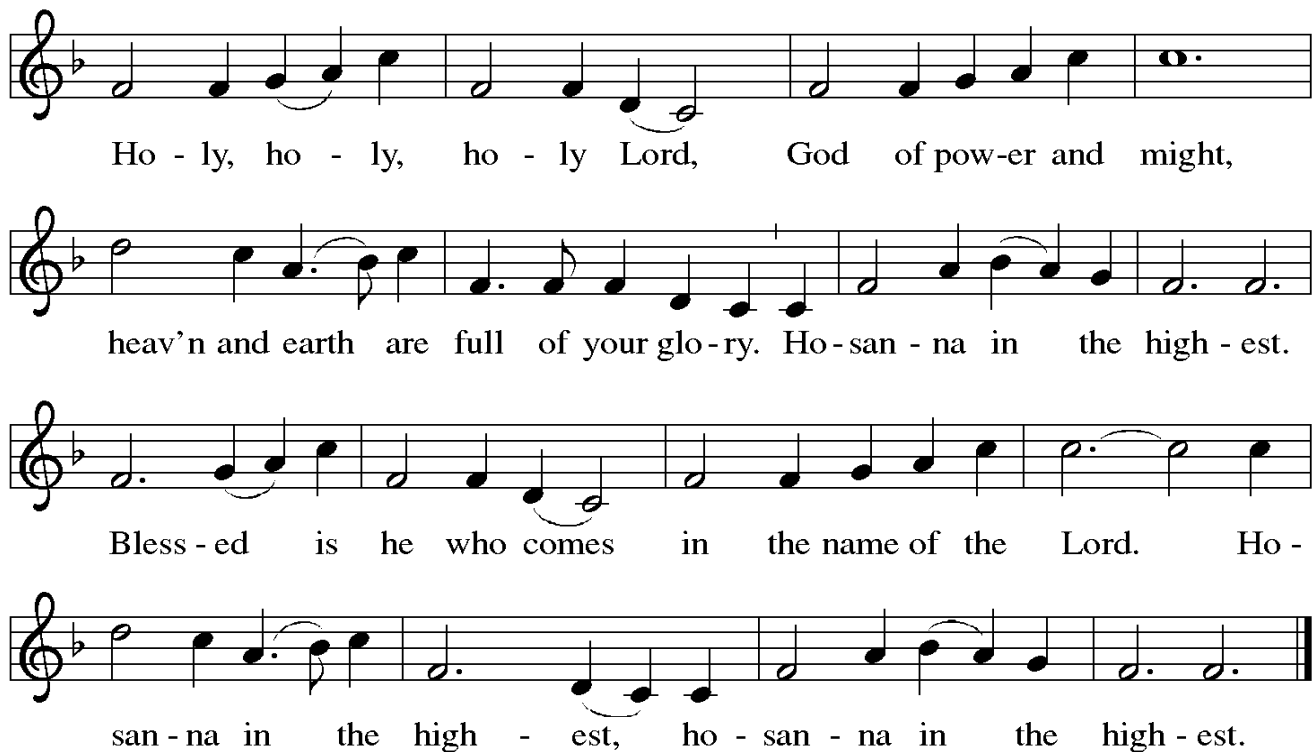
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

THE PREFACE

P: 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

P: 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.

P: 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

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 # 485

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

After all have communed, you are invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: 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. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD!**THE SENDING**

P: Go in peace.

A: Encourage one another.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING IN WORSHIP	
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Connie Amor John Avers
GREETERS: BAKER STREET	Larry & Judy Overmyer
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Greg Jess
READER	Peggy Rutherford
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jody Jess
DEACONS	Cecilia Boucher John Burmeister

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Psalm Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A, 2007 Augsburg Fortress

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting #10: 2026 Augsburg Fortress

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot, please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Peggy (Wilhelm) Smith, by Bill, Derek, Annette, Mark, Kaitlyn and Brenden.

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, Krista Culbert, Peggy Dorr, Jackie Mowry, Mary Nossaman, Rilee Overmyer, Tim Rutherford, Ginger Starrett, Julie Stawowy, Connie Wasserman, and Bob Wickert.

HOSPITAL VISITS! If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

HEARING DEVICES are available at the Usher station at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and closed Friday.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER should be sent to Tricia at dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

RADIO BROADCASTS – If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday radio broadcast on Eagle 99, please contact Tricia to check availability.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THANKOFFERING will be observed at both services this weekend. All the items that you have donated to complete kits for Lutheran World Relief and the quilts that were made by the Project Day Ladies are on display so that we can bless them before they are sent out into the world. A Thankoffering envelope was included in your last newsletter if you brought it with you today please place it in the offering plate when the offering is received later in worship.

PACKING DAY - SEPTEMBER 21 AT 9 AM – The Project Day Group has been busy this year making quilts and assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief and the time has come to pack everything up and ship it out. They would appreciate extra hands to help with this job. If you have time to help, please come to the dining room at 9 am on September 21.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT will meet on *September 21 at 6 pm* in the lounge. If you are grieving the loss of your spouse and could use the support of others experiencing the same loss, then please consider joining this group.

JUGGLING ACT - Ladies do you feel like you are always juggling the demands of life? Sometimes it's nice to gather with others that are juggling the same demands around a meal that you did not have to prepare. This group meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month at The Garrison. Our next gathering is September 22. If you plan to attend, please call the church office.

BOOKWORMS will meet on **September 28 at 2 pm** in the lounge to discuss *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderband. This story follows Hollis Shaw whose life seems to be picture perfect. Shaw is the creator of a popular lifestyle blog and married to a heart surgeon. After her husband is killed in an accident, she begins to find out that her life is not as perfect as she thought it was.

FALL BIBLE STUDY WITH PR. BAILEY will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm starting September 28 in the large classroom in the Sunday school hallway. This group will use the five week "Way of Love" study from the Synod. During our time together we will explore John's first letter to the church and ponder what it means to be in community with one another while we are surrounded by and united in the love of God that was revealed to us through Jesus Christ.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP!

NOW THAT SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION BACKPACK BUDDIES HAS RETURNED AND 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. We are also accepting monetary donations. 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.





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Susan Sawdo - Teacher
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Our Custodial Team:

Jim Post
Michaelle Goodman
Andrew Bailey

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

SEPTEMBER 20 - 27, 2026

Today FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE – Peanut Butter & Jelly

8:15 – Choir Rehearsal
9:00 – Worship
10:15 – Confirmation – Youth Room
10:30 – Choir Rehearsal
3:30 – Scouts

Monday

9:00 – Packing Day – Dining Room
1:00 – Bible Study with Maureen – Lounge
6:00 – Spousal Grief Support

Tuesday

5:30 – Juggling Act at The Garrison

Wednesday

5:00 – Mid-Week Youth Huddle
5:30 – Parent's Support Group
6:00 – S.L.A.M.
6:30 – Jesus, Games & Crafts

Thursday

11:30 – Soup Kitchen

Friday

Saturday

4:00 – Worship

Sunday

8:15 – Choir Rehearsal
9:00 – Worship
10:15 – Confirmation
10:30 – Choir Rehearsal

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 175

Called to Present the Light of Christ!