

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The 18th Sunday
after Pentecost**

September 26 & 27, 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 # 526

GOD IS HERE

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: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

EXODUS 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the Lord and in the Lord's servant Moses.

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of

them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 114

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



¹ *When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob
from a people of strange language,*

² *Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.*

³ *The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.*

⁴ *The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. Refrain*

⁵ *Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?*

⁶ *O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?*

⁷ *Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,*

⁸ *who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water. 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 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority

are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

WHEN ISRAEL WAS IN EGYPT'S LAND (BUILD US UP, LORD)

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

THE CREED

A: 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

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

*Teach Me, O Lord
Thomas/Attwood*

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.**

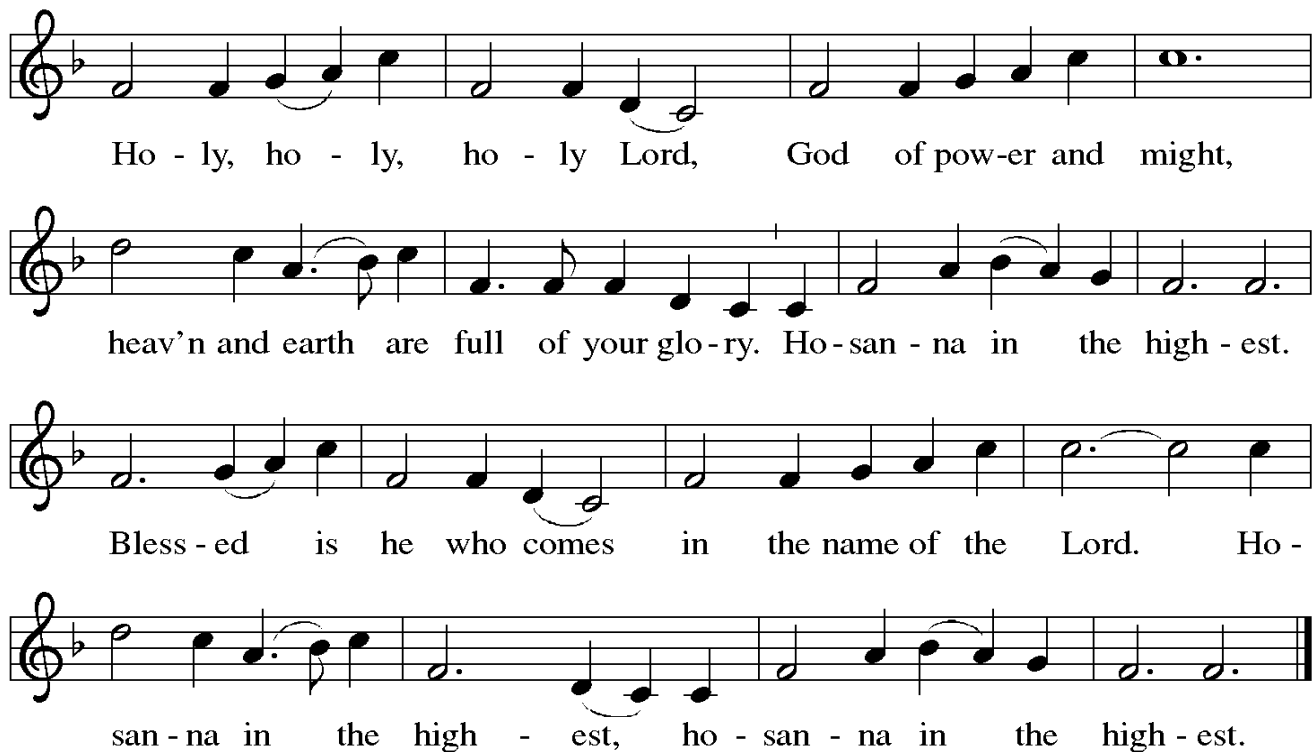
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 # 462

NOW WE JOIN IN CELEBRATION

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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love. May we follow in the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord to be of one mind, living as the body of Christ.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances.

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW #543

GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace.

A: Encourage one another.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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 Merle & Joanne Hirt on their wedding anniversary.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given as a gift to the congregation, by Joy Circle. **(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, Janet Bowles, Krista Culbert, Peggy Dorr, Jackie Mowry, Mary Nossaman, Rilee Overmyer, Tim Rutherford, Ginger Starrett, 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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CUB SCOUT PACK 302 would like to thank the members Grace Lutheran for their continued support of the group. Last weekend we kicked off our popcorn fundraising campaign. Thanks to your support we have already sold more than \$400 worth of popcorn. We have set a goal of \$5,000 in sales so that we can take the pack on a trip to Michigan to spend the night on a WWII submarine! If you missed last weekend and would like to buy popcorn, please contact Danielle at 419-656-8415.

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

FALL YOUTH FUNDRAISER – On October 24 from 9 am – noon, come learn how to make mosaic coasters or a mosaic sign with your house number. Immerse yourself in the calm of arranging pieces of glass to make a beautiful pattern. The cost is \$20 for two coasters or \$50 to make your house number. Payment is due a week prior to the workshop. Proceeds will benefit youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering or attending summer camp in 2027. For more information contact Heather Hawn at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or by calling 419-307-1808.

CRAFTING SPACE AVAILABLE October 24 from 8 am – 6 pm for those who don't want to craft alone. To reserve your space contact Heather Hawn at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or by calling 419-307-1808. Cost is \$20 and payable at the door.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY² WITH PR. BAILEY – Have you ever wanted to dig deeper into the weekly Bible readings? If so, come spend time with Pr. Bailey and Jesus on Mondays at 11:30 am in the lounge, eat a peanut butter & jelly sandwich and learn more about the weekly scripture readings.

BOOKWORMS will meet on **September 28 at 2 pm** in the lounge to discuss *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderband.

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.

MAUREEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet at 1 pm on Tuesdays in the lounge. This fall her group will begin a study called Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table. The purpose of this study is to help people take control of their thoughts and fears.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP!

CAN YOU LEND A RIDE? We have someone who would like to regularly attend Saturday worship but needs some help getting here. Questions? Contact Pr. Bailey. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help a friend in need.

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.

MUSIC AT GRACE

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED JOINING A HANDBELL CHOIR? The Grace Ringers is a volunteer community bell choir that is dedicated to rehearsing and performing handbell music to commemorate special seasons during the church year. Whether you are a seasoned musician or are new to making music, all are welcome to join the ensemble! Being able to read music is not required. We plan to meet weekly for rehearsals. The bell choir will perform at select Sunday services. If you are interested contact Charlie at pianomancharlie03@gmail.com

SERVING IN WORSHIP		
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Thomas O'Brien	Kathy Burmeister Jan Guthrie
GREETERS: BAKER STREET		Ken & Ann Overmyer
WORSHIP ASSISTANT		Kristen Lindsay
READER	Mark Smith	Henry Seibert
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Wendy Bailey	Bev Bradford
DEACONS		Walker Cooper Greg Jess

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We Plow the Fields and Scatter Music © 1989 Abingdon Press, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN
Now We Join In Celebration Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Go, My Children, with My Blessing Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Psalm Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A, 2007 Augsburg Fortress
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting #10: 2026 Augsburg Fortress
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Minister of Youth & Family:

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Noah's Ark PreSchool:

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Susan Sauda - Teacher
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Our Custodial Team:

Jim Post
Michaelle Goodman
Andrew Bailey

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 4, 2026

Today

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

Monday

11:30 – PB & J²
1:00 – Bible Study with Maureen – Lounge
2:00 – Bookworms
6:30 – Bible Study with Pr. Bailey

Tuesday

5:00 – Executive Committee Meeting

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

10:00 – Stewardship Meeting
11:30 – Soup Kitchen
5:00 – Endowment Meeting

Friday

4:30 – Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday

2:30 – Bailey/Lynch Wedding
4:00 – Worship/Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry

Sunday NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

8:15 & 10:30 – Choir Rehearsal
9:00 – Worship
10:15 – Confirmation
3:30 – Pack 302 Selling Popcorn at Kroger

Called to Present the Light of Christ!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 153