

Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



September 13, 2020; 9 A.M.
15th Sunday after Pentecost
FM Radio: 89.3

As you gather in Grace's parking lot, we invite you to turn your FM radio to 89.3 to hear the worship service this morning. As you arrive, please stop when you approach the greeters, and you can pick up pre-filled communion elements as you enter the parking lot. You are invited to stay in your car with the windows up, or if you prefer to sit or stand next to your vehicle while listening to your car radio, we ask you to wear face masks and maintain physical distancing. The building will not be open for bathroom use.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER

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.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

Psalms 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's. O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel. LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING:

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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.

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. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 18:21-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

SOLO

"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"

ELW 358 (One License)



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Bless Madelyn Renee Emery, Annabelle Renee Gibbs, and Emma Nicole Hinderlider as they receive Holy Communion for the first time this day. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you Bruce Randolph (husband of Ila Randolph) and for all those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a physically distant sign of God's peace with one another—wave a greeting of peace to people around you, flash your lights, and/or text a greeting of peace to someone.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in a basket with the parking lot greeters on your drive out of worship. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Give+ Mobile App, or online at Grace's website. You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed 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.**

COMMUNION

Please receive the bread and cup when you are able to practice hand hygiene and physical distancing- with hand sanitizer at your vehicle- or if needed, when you return home and are able to wash hands and remove your face mask.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"The Power of Your Love"

Brewster & Fieldes (CCLI)

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**



Worship Team

Greeters & Set-Up/Clean-Up Team: Cindy Meyer, Paul Meyer, Lisa Banker

A/V Team: Bill Nattress & Andy Bellavia

Reader: Judy Reilly

Children's Sermon: Cindy Meyer

Musicians: Judy Reilly, Ron Fredriksen

Pastors: Pastor Ken Gibson & Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Worship Videos Online. A video recording of Sunday worship in Grace's parking lot will be posted to Grace's website later on Sunday.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together this morning.
Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002675. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Other liturgy and song used by permission OneLicense.net #A-704477 and CCLI License #546408.