

Grace Lutheran Church

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



September 12, 2021; 9:00 A.M.
16th Sunday After Pentecost

For those worshipping in the parking lot (89.3 FM), you can pick up pre-filled communion elements from the box at the front door.

For those worshipping in the sanctuary, you can pick up pre-filled communion elements at the Information Desk. Thank you for wearing facemasks while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

In preparation for worship at home, you may wish to light a candle. It can be a symbol of the presence of Christ, the light of the world. If you wish to commune, please prepare wine (or grape juice) and bread to be at hand when that part of the service arrives.

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW pg. 72)

GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

Chorale Prelude "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

Lynn Petersen (Augsburg Fortress)

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **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

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANTHEM

“With a Voice of Singing”

Martin Shaw (One License)

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM:**Psalm 116:1-9**

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears,
and my feet from stumbling;**

I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

SECOND READING:**James 3:1-12**

A reading from James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Mark 8:27-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

ELW 808 (Augsburg Fortress)



1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev-'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher-ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen our efforts to combat the coronavirus and strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus 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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate as you leave today. 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 Vanco 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. God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

ELW 798 (One License)

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
your name? Will you go where you don't
know and nev - er be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
name be known, will you let my life be
grown in you and you in me?"

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SENDING

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

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN

"God's work. Our Hands."

ACS 1000 (Augsburg Fortress)



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

BLESSING

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING MUSIC

Choral Prelude on "God's work. Our hands."

David Cherwien



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress, Andy Bellavia & Mark Miller

Greeter: Robin Gibbs

Reader: Adele Petersen

Usher: Adele Petersen

Children's Sermon: Jamielynn Wedoff

Musicians: Jan Burns, Terry Aavang, Carrie Filetti, Paul Lockwood, Judy Reilly,
Ron Fredriksen

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

To the glory of God, given by Diane Schulz.

Bulletin Sponsor:

In honor of all teachers back in school, given by Bob & Joyce Shook.

Worship Videos Online. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.

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

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