

Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 22, 2024
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude *Amazing Grace (Peaceful, Easy Feeling)*

Praise Team

Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven. **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.**

*Gathering Hymn

Cry of My Heart

by Terry Butler

It is the cry of my heart to follow You, it is the cry of my heart to be close to You,

It is the cry of my heart to follow, all of the days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord, so I can walk in Your truth,

Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord, and make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow You, it is the cry of my heart to be close to You,

It is the cry of my heart to follow, all of the days of my life.

Open my eyes so I can see, the wonderful things that You do,

Open my heart up more and more and make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow You, it is the cry of my heart to be close to You,

It is the cry of my heart to follow,

All of the days of my life.

1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI #115-75839

*Prayer of the Day

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 11: 18-20

A reading from Jeremiah:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

(read responsively)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading

James 3: 13 – 4: 3, 7-8a

A reading from James:

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Awesome God

by Rich Mullins

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above,
With wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God, our God is an awesome God.

1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI #115-75839

Gospel

Mark 9: 30-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be

betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Priscilla

Hymn of the Day

Thy Word

by Michael W. Smith & Amy Grant

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right beside me,

Nothing will I fear as long as You are near, please be with me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget, Your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering,
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,

And a light unto my path, You're the light unto my path.

1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Vinny Mae's Girl (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC) CCLI #115-75839

*Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."*

The peace of the Lord be with you, always.

And also with you.

Offering

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings. Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary.

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Sung

Invitation to Communion

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Communion

Instrumental

Hymn during Communion

Only By Grace

by Gerrit Gustafson

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand,
Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb,
Into Your presence You call us, you call us to come,
Into Your presence You draw us, and now by Your grace we come,
Now by Your grace we come.

Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand,
Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb,
Into Your presence You call us, you call us to come,
Into Your presence You draw us, and now by Your grace we come.
Now by Your grace we come, now by Your grace we come.

1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI #115-75839

Blessing after Communion

***Prayer after Communion**

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with mercy
and grace. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Praise Team

***Sending Hymn**

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

by Jamie Owens-Collins

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land, the battle belongs to the Lord,
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand, the battle belongs to the Lord.
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord,
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood, the battle belongs to the Lord,
He's raised up a standard, the pow'r of His blood, the battle belongs to the Lord.
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord,
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear, the battle belongs to the Lord,
Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near, the battle belongs to the Lord.
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord,
We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.
Power and strength to the Lord, power and strength to the Lord.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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