

**GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
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## **Welcome to Grace!**

September 28 & October 1, 2023

### **What We Believe:**

✝ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✝ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✝ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✝ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✝ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

### **Guests and Holy Communion:**

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

**Nursery:** If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

**Friendship Pad:** Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed during the service.

**Offering:** The offering plates are not passed. Rather, they are located at the back of the nave. Please place your offering in one of the plates as you enter or leave the church. You may also hand it to one of the ushers.

**Fellowship Time:** Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship.

**Large Print Hymnals:** Are available from the ushers!

**Electronic Devices:** PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

**May the Lord bless your worship today!**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 1st, 2023 – Divine Service, Setting One**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

♪ O Holy Spirit, Enter In	<i>LSB 913</i>
Invocation	<i>LSB 151</i>
Confession of Sins and Absolution	<i>LSB 151</i>

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

♪ Introit	<b>Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6</b>
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**P** The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**C** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**P** The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**C** He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**P** He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.

**P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

♪ Kyrie	<i>LSB 152</i>
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♪ Gloria in Excelsis	<i>LBS 154</i>
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## Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

**P** Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32**

**Pew Bible, p.705**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

<sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup>“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

**Epistle: Philipians 2:1–4, 14–18**

**Pew Bible, p.980&981**

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of

life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

♪ **Alleluia and Verse**

**LBS 156**

**Holy Gospel:**

**Matthew 21:23-27**

**Pew Bible, p.826**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

***Catechism Time – The Ten Commandments Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 326***

**P** What is the Eight Commandment?

**P** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**C** *What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.*

**Nicene Creed**

***LSB 158 or inside back cover of hymnal***

♪ **O God, My Faithful God**

**LSB 696**

***Sermon–Theme: “Into the Vineyard” Matthew 21:28-32***

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

*The offering plates are not passed. Please see note on the first page of the bulletin.*

♪ **Offertory**

**LSB 159-160**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

♪ Preface	LSB 160
♪ Sanctus	LSB 161
Prayer of Thanksgiving	LSB 162
Lord's Prayer	LSB 162
The Words of Our Lord	LSB 162
♪ Pax Domini	LSB 163
♪ Agnus Dei	LSB 163

**Distribution** – If you are visiting with us, please read “Guests and Holy Communion,” printed on the inside cover of the Friendship Pad. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please notify the pastor or an usher. If possible, please sit near the center aisle, and it will be brought to you at the conclusion of the distribution. Wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray for those with alcohol sensitivities.

### Distribution Hymns:

♪ What Wondrous Love Is this	LSB 543
♪ Renew Me, O Eternal Light	LSB 704
♪ Once In the Blest Baptismal Waters	LSB 598
♪ O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee	LSB 632
♪ Thank the Lord	LSB 164
♪ Benediction	LSB 166
♪ Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	LSB 655

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+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +

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**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 8th**

**SUNDAY**            9:00 AM    **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**  
                          10:30 AM    Voter's meeting's

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**    6:30 PM    **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**FRIDAY**

**SUNDAY**            9:00 AM    **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**  
                          10:30 AM    Bible Study  
                          11:30 AM    Council Meeting

**Lectionary Summary: The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God**

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of anyone" (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, "shall surely live; he shall not die" (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, "he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death" (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now "shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even "the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God" (Matt. 21:31–32).

**About the Bulletin Cover:** Our life as the children of God is a pure and beautiful gift. Christ has loved us by dying on the cross for our sins, putting our interests above His own. Because of Christ, we also are free to put the interests of others before our own. In turn, the Lord has placed the beautiful gifts of love and service into our hands so we can share them with our neighbors.