

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

September 14 & 17, 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!

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14 & 17, 2023– Divine Service, Setting Three
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

♪ Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure	LSB 533
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins	LSB 184

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit Psalm 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!
- C** **Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!**
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- P** Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning,**
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!

♪ Kyrie	LSB 186
♪ Gloria in Excelsis	LSB 187
♪ Gloria Patri	LSB 186
Salutation and Collect of the Day	LSB 189

- P** Let us pray.
- God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle**Romans 14:1–12****pew Bible p. 948-949**

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Catechism Time – *The Ten Commandments*

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 321

The Sixth Commandment

P You shall not commit adultery

P *What does this mean?*

C *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Nicene Creed

LSB 191 or inside of back of cover of hymnal

♪ **Come Down, O Love Divine** **LSB 501**
Sermon Theme ***“The Kingdom of Mercy”*** ***Matthew 18:21-35***

Prayer of the Church

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

♪ **Offertory** **LSB 192**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface **LSB 194**

♪ **Sanctus** **LSB 195**

Lord’s Prayer **LSB 196**

The Words of Our Lord **LSB 197**

Pax Domini **LSB 197**

♪ **Agnus Dei** **LSB 198**

Distribution

♪ **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** **LSB 621**

♪ **Chief of Sinners Though I Be** **LSB 611**

♪ **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty** **LSB 790**

♪ **O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee** **LSB 632**

♪ **Nunc Dimittis** **LSB 199**

♪ **Thanksgiving** **LSB 200**

♪ **Salutation and Benedicamus** **LSB 201**

♪ **Benediction** **LSB 202**

♪ **All Christians Who have been Baptized** **LSB 596**

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+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +
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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF September 17th THROUGH September 23rd

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM Bible Study

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

Lectionary Summary: Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “mercy on your fellow servant” and “forgive your brother from your heart” (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “are the Lord’s” (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will “stand before the judgment seat of God,” we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand” (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “to bring it about that many people should be kept alive” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “I will provide for you and your little ones” (Gen. 50:21).

About the Bulletin Cover: The brothers who took Joseph, threw him into a pit, and sold him into slavery were now in his hands. However, Joseph embraced his brothers with tears of joy and forgiveness. Even when their fears were renewed after the death of their father, Joseph comforted them. Though our sin drove the nails into Jesus’ hands on the cross, God meant it for good as Jesus died to bring forgiveness and life for us. Thus, Jesus brings us true and lasting comfort as He welcomes us with His nail-pierced hands.