

**GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
3700 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53405  
www.gracelutheranracine.net  
262-633-4831

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. David W. Hintz  
(920) 227-7915 (mobile)  
revdwhintz@hotmail.com

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## **Welcome to Grace!**

**September 21 & 24, 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!**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 21 & 24, 2023– Divine Service, Setting Three**  
**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

♪ <b>Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord</b>	<b>LSB 497</b>
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>LSB 184</b>
<b>Confession of Sins</b>	<b>LSB 184</b>

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**Introit** Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

**P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.

**C** **What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?**

**P** I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.

**C** **Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.**

**P** O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**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** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.

♪ <b>Kyrie</b>	<b>LSB 186</b>
♪ <b>Gloria in Excelsis</b>	<b>LSB 187</b>
<b>Salutation and Collect of the Day</b>	<b>LSB 189</b>

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**Epistle****Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30**

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**Catechism Time** – *The Ten Commandments*

*Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 321*

## The Seventh Commandment

**P** You shall not steal

**P** *What does this mean?*

**C** *What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.*

**Apostles’ Creed**

**LSB 192 or inside of back of cover of hymnal**

♪ **Seek Where You May to Find a Way** **LSB 557**  
***Sermon Theme*** ***“The god of Fairness”*** ***Matthew 20:1-16***

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**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**

♪ **How Wide the Love of Christ** **LSB 535**

♪ **Your Table I Approach** **LSB 628**

♪ **Take My Life and Let It Be** **LSB 783**

♪ **We Give Thee But Thine Own** **LSB 781**

♪ **Nunc Dimittis** **LSB 199**

♪ **Thanksgiving** **LSB 200**

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

♪ **Benediction** **LSB 202**

♪ **Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying** **LSB 826**

✠✠✠  
+ **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** +  
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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF September 24th THROUGH October 1st

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    Voter's meetings

**Lectionary Summary:** Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

**About the Bulletin Cover:** By all appearances, the situation looked dark for Paul, but the light of the Lord’s Gospel still shines into the dark confines of prison. The gospel cannot be bound (see 2 Timothy @:9). Furthermore, Paul’s suffering was a means by which God was spreading the Word that Jesus has conquered sin, death, and the devil for the date of all people. The darkness of this world cannot overcome the Word (see John 1:5).