

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

Nov 9 & 12, 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!

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service, Setting Three

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

♪ The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

LSB 514

Invocation

LSB 184

Confession of Sins and Absolution

LSB 184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

♪ Introit

Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3

P Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

C How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

P Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

P For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

C For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- rightly

P O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in 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 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God

♪ Gloria Patri

LSB 186

♪ Kyrie

LSB 186

♪ Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

♪ Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 189

P Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament – Amos 5:18-24

Pew Bible, p. 768

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
²¹“I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Pew Bible, p. 987

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a

cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

♪ **Alleluia**

LSB 190

Holy Gospel – Matthew 25:1–13

Pew Bible, p. 830

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Nicene Creed

LSB 191 or inside back cover of hymnal

Catechism Time – The Lord’s Prayer

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 322

The Introduction

P Our Father who are in heaven.

P *What does this mean?*

G **With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

♪ **Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

LSB 516

Sermon

“Watchful Virgins”

Matthew 25:1–13

Prayer of the Church

♪ Offertory

LSB 192

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

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 Hymns:

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.

♪ I Walk in Danger All the Way

LSB 716

♪ Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 636

♪ Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

♪ O Living Bread from Heaven

LSB 642

♪ Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

♪ Thanksgiving

LSB 200

♪ Salutation and Benedicamus

LSB 201

♪ Benediction

LSB 202

♪ Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725

+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF November 12th through the 19th

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 6:30 PM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FRIDAY

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM COUNCIL MEETING



The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is “darkness, and not light” (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their “burnt offerings and grain offerings,” nor will He look upon their “peace offerings” (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets “justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the “lamps” of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the “oil” of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us “to the dealers” (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we “encourage one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes “with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,” and “we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

About the Bulletin Cover: The bridegroom is here! Five were prepared with oil in their lamps, but another five were unprepared and left in the dark. Christ's parable of the ten virgins is a call to vigilance of the Lord's return. We do not know the hour when He will come back again. However, in our Lord's Word, we have everything we need to be ready for that day. His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (see Psalm 119:105). Jesus, the Church's Bridegroom, has died, risen, and is coming back again for His Church.