

GRACE

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2020

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

"By what authority are you doing these things?" It seems like a reasonable enough question. Jesus has entered Jerusalem in triumph, overturned the tables of the money changers in the Temple, and cursed a fig tree for good measure. What gives Jesus the right to do these things? It may be a reasonable question, but it's not an honest one. The elders and the chief priests are not curious; they are threatened. Jesus calls them out for their hypocrisy, turning their trap against them with a parable. But the true demonstration of Jesus' authority will come a few days later when he will empty himself on the cross. By what authority does Jesus do these things? By the only authority that matters, that of the God who knows that true power is no different than self-giving love.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Siciliano

Karl Friedrich Abel arr. Charles Callahan

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.
- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
 We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.
 As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, adapt. Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

ANTIPHON: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.

- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;* let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- Let none who look to you be | put to shame;*
 let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.
- L Show me your | ways, O Lord,* and teach | me your paths.
- Lead me in your | truth and teach me,* for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- E Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,* for they are from | everlasting.
- Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;* remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.
- Gracious and upright | is the Lord;* therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.
- He guides the humble in | doing right* and teaches his way | to the lowly.
- L All the paths of the Lord are | love and faithfulness;* to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.



SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

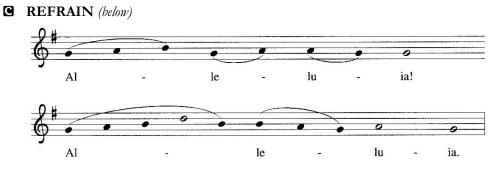
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.



L Alleluia.



- My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.
- **C** REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23–32

- ▶ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

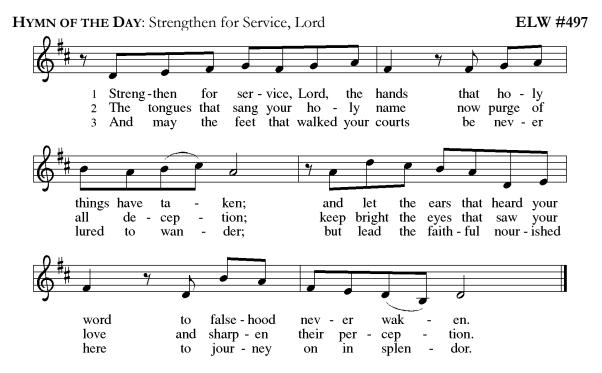
When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Empty Authority



Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. composite Music: BUCKHURST RUN, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

- **P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- 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 into hell. 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.

ANTHEM: We Sing to You, O God

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth, let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O God, let songs be raised, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

We wandered far from home out in a desert land, you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band. You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.

adapt. Thomas Keesecker

You bear us through the world, an eagle to its young; you rise up on your wings and bear us toward the sun. We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings, the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring. Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust. Gracia Grindal

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **G** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 - and forgive us our trespasses,
 - as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 - and lead us not into temptation,
 - but deliver us from evil.
 - For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

SENDING HYMN: O God, My Faithful God



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Echo (from BWV 821)

Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Charles Callahan

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister Julie Hinz, assisting minister The Rev. Michael D. Costello, organist Valerie Poulos, soprano Justin Martin, tenor Christine Janzow Phillips, oboist Al Swanson, videographer Eunice Eifert, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Annalise Balock Cathy Barker Ruth Barker Len Berghaus Anne-Marie Bogdan Ed Borg Hans Dumpys Ken Folgers Dennis Forgue Marilyn Gotsch Belen and Ron Gresens Carl and Donna Gruendler David Gruendler Kathy Hale Kathy Hayes

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker) Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke) Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell) Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel) Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz) Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson) Elvis Burleson (son-in-law of Tina Moore) Mark Carter (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening) John Cattau (nephew of Dan Cattau) Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack) Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel) Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein) Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner) Joan Fudala (mother of Greg Fudala) Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz) Dean Gesme (father of Karen Brunssen and Martha Nielsen) Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen) Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening) Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke) Ryan Hall (nephew of Judy and Jim Kerns) Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason) Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner) Rob Kay (brother of Tom Kay) Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson) Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten) Sally Kindsfater (sister of Mary Jane Endicott) Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Ron and Jeanette Koski (parents of Jill Koski) George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma) Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson) Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson) Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson) Mary Jane Kuehnert (friend of Stephanie and Lance Wilkening) Maxx Kusper and family (friends of Deb Maxwell) John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson) Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich) Lily (friend of Carrie Douma) Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli) Jane Martin (mother of Justin Martin) Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Ken Heppner Patricia Herendeen Joan Koerber Jerry Koenig Paul Lochner Beth Smoots McClanahan Karen McMahon Jennifer Murtoff Paul Nelson Adrienne Rott Tim Sandvoss Marge Sanger Pat Scala Carl Schalk Madison Staples Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell) MaryJo Meyer (aunt of Brooke Schedler) Don and John Moehlenkamp (brothers of Marilyn Moehlenkamp) Robert Neer (nephew of Roberta Gillespie and Margaret Kruse) Joan Nelson (mother of Julie Modrich) Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester) Kathi Parisi (friend of Debbie Conley) Rosie Parker (mother of Cameron Parker) James Pawlowski (brother-in-law of Jennifer Staples) Becky Peterson (friend of Jennifer Staples) Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt) James Powers (friend of Al Swanson) Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott) Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba) Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson) Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson) Bonnie Robinson (friend of Julie Hinz) Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Shirley Moyers Schnack (sister-in-law of Randy Schnack) Linda Schroeder (aunt of Anne-Marie Bogdan) John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma) Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner) Ken and Lori Shoup (friends of Marilyn Heppner) Teresa Smith (cousin of Marilyn Heppner) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten) Lee Stephens (brother of Tony) Konrad Swider (friend of Al Swanson) Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester) Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone) Ilene Thompson (sister of Marilyn Heppner) Donald Tremper (brother of Virginia Walker) Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel) Brian Walden (relative of Pat Gulik) Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz) Sonja Wandro (sister of Al Swanson) Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen) Robert West (friend of John and Carol Stanger) Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas) Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz) Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik) Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher) 15 Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Disaster Response

For those who mourn

Evelyn Vocelka (former member of Grace)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus) Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout) Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks) David Danford (son of John and Karen) E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting) Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz) Brent Knop (great-nephew and godson of Martha Rohlfing)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezenski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak *(Germany)* Drew Krueger *(England)*

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes	Marian Hogue
Christopher Davis	Walt and Carolyn Martin
Marie Gierke	Joanne Nelson
Ronald Gresens	Barbara Rinnan
Gloria Hillert	Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oregon Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher) Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone) Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie) Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss) Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
PHONE NUMBER	

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- **I** would like to know more about Grace Church.
- **I** am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- □ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail, Sunday Is Coming.
- □ I would like one of the pastors to contact me via (check one) □ Phone or □ E-mail.



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www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ