

Hope Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
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Joyce Dubach, Organist
September 14, 2025
14th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Food pantry need: cereal and peanut butter
Attendance for August 31, 2025- 30

PRELUDE

please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

Gathering Song

(ELW 807)

. **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Greeting

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

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

Canticle of Praise



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



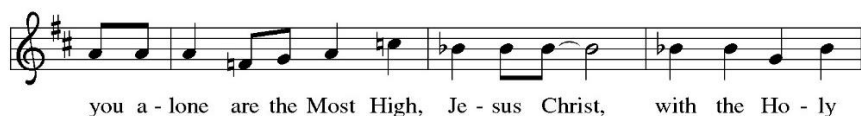
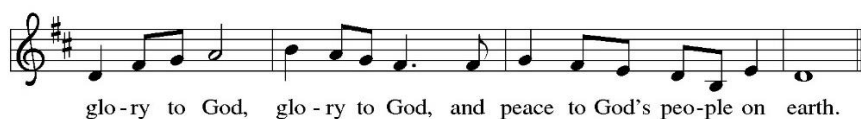
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**
- ³ For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your
sight; so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your
judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

please stand if you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?

⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW 779)

. **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words

The assembly is seated.

***MEAL** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING HYMN

(ELW 583)

. Take My Life, That I May Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875–1955 Music: William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Refrain

Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

Refrain

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

(ELW 544)

. **Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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BREAD LOAF OFFERING - SEPTEMBER – Grace Lutheran Church Preschool

- Our Food Pantry is in need of cereal and peanut butter.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- **REMINDER**

Adelphi will be accepting your donations for the Mustard Seed on Saturday, September 20th between 9 a.m. and noon. The Mustard Seed will have a truck here at Grace to pick up the donations.

- Just as you have made a functioning and comfortable home for your family and have the things needed to support your daily life, the Mustard Seed clients desire the same and need your help. Please put this date on your calendar and give some thought to what you might contribute. Any questions, please contact Linda Grawcock.

- Grace ladies will host Adelphi Tuesday, September 16. Following the luncheon the ladies will assemble their Personal Care kits for World Relief then watch the video "ordinary to Extraordinary". This video will travel to Mali, West Africa, on a journey as these kits are distributed among the families.

- **Christmas in September – Because We Can Celebrate Anytime!**

Who says Christmas only comes once a year? This year, we're spreading the joy a little early (or maybe a little late!) with **Christmas in September** on **Sunday, September 21st**, right after worship, we will have a special Christmas brunch. We'll be painting beautiful new wooden ornaments for our church Christmas tree and lovingly retiring the well-worn ornaments that have brought us joy over the years. Yes, we know it's not December, but the cookies will still be delicious, the music will still be festive, and the memories will still be just as special! Come enjoy Christmas music, tasty Christmas cookies, and a hearty brunch while helping us create decorations that will bring joy for many seasons to come. After all, any day is a good day to celebrate the gift of being together!

- Grace Lutheran Church is now participating in First Fridays downtown in Columbia City. We are in the same spot (Sect. 3 Space 51). I have ordered 300 more wristbands and picked up 2 tanks of helium. Mariah is tying ribbon to the wristbands which is a huge help. I still need to grab more devotional books and stamp our church name on them. If anyone else has ideas, please share with the group. We will take the preschool board with us again and hopefully we can use it. We will meet at 4:30pm at church. Let me know if you can make it or not. Thanks, Joe Freiburger

Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church

Monday September 15, 2025

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 B/G 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

Tuesday September 16, 2025

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Care Team 10:30 am

Adelphai group 11:30 am

Cubscouts 6:30 pm

Wednesday September 17, 2025

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Pre-k Chapel 10:20 am

Pre-k Chapel 11 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Pre-k chapel 12:40 pm

Food Vouchers 4 pm

Thursday September 18, 2025

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

Friday September 19, 2025

Pastor's Day Off

Food Pantry 12 pm

Saturday September 20, 2025

Adelphai Group Collections 9 am

Sunday September 21, 2025

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:15 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Ornament making 12 pm

We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would like to stay.