

Hope Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director
Joyce Dubach, Organist
September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Food pantry need: cereal and peanut butter
Attendance for September 14, 2025- 30

PRELUDE

please stand if you are able.

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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 655)

. **Son of God, Eternal Savior**

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en
Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

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.

Canticle of Praise



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 "Wor- thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex- alt- ed thus!"
3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re-ceive hon- or and pow'r di- vine;
4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one to bless the sa- cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 “Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
 and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed 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: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 113

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.
² **Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down
let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.
⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the ¹ LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
⁶ **but stoops ¹ to behold
the heavens ¹ and the earth?**
⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust
and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,
⁸ **enthroning them ¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers ¹ of the people.**
⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

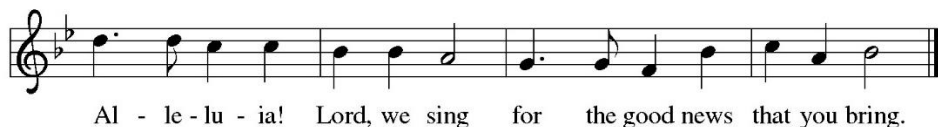
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’

⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first,

‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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 710)

. Let Streams of Living Justice

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.**

**Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting
life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your
abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

Feed Us with Hunger for Justice

Optional descant



Feed us jus - tice. Feed us your peace.



Feed us with hun-ger for jus-tice. Feed us with thirst for peace.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

Music: HUNGER FOR JUSTICE, Anne Krentz Organ

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
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 793)

. Be Thou My Vision

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.;
tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: Irish traditional

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

- **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.