



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

*If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **8:00a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.*

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025

Today in Worship

- One of the great mysteries of the Christian faith can be summed up in the word “near.” “Near” can indicate something that is almost here but hasn’t yet arrived. And at the same time, “near” can point to something already with us, like those “near and dear” to our hearts. The word “near” resounds with feelings of the here and now and the not quite yet. Today in worship, Your Savior, Jesus, is near! He is present in the here and now, delivering grace upon grace. And He is on His way, bringing the fullness of His freedom. Praise the God who comes near in Jesus Christ, our Lord!



Ringling of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #595
“O Blessed Spring”

Invocation & Sentences

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P For I know that my Redeemer lives. (*Job 19:25a*)

C Let the redeemed of the LORD say so. (*Ps. 107:2a*)

P You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

C You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode. (*Ex. 15:13*)

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Ps. 118:24*)

Confession & Absolution

Colossians 1:13-14

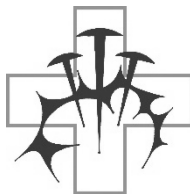
P The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

C and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P Almighty God and Father,

C we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in Your peace.

Amen.



P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 98

P Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P The Lord has made known his salvation;

C he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

P Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

C with the lyre and the sound of melody!

P With trumpets and the sound of the horn

C make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

P Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C the world and those who dwell in it!

P Let the rivers clap their hands;

C let the hills sing for joy together

P before the Lord, for he comes

C to judge the earth.

P He will judge the world with righteousness,

C and the peoples with equity.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #873
"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. Redeeming Lord Jesus Christ, at Your name bows every knee in heaven and on earth. In Word and Sacrament, draw near to this holy gathering, that in forgiveness and faith, Your people might confess You as Lord, be sanctified for good works, and be prepared to meet You when You come again, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1-6

"The Lord prepares His people to meet the sun of righteousness."

L The Old Testament Reading for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost is from Malachi, chapter four.

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

“Meditation for Communion”

Epistle Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

“Paul commends the believers to dedicate themselves to honorable work and doing good.”

L The Epistle Reading is from Second Thessalonians, chapter three.

¹ Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Luke 21:28b

P Alleluia. Straighten up and raise your heads,

C because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:5-28

"Seeking a sign, Jesus offers His hearers assurance that amid disaster, their redemption is drawing near."

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

⁷ And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

⁸ And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death.

¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Lord's Prayer – 7th Petition

L The Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer

C But deliver us from evil.

L What does this mean?

C We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley or sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

*Lutheran Service Book #508
"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"*

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C **Hear us and be near us, O Lord.**

The prayers conclude:

P Insufficient are our prayers, O Lord, and so we rest in the intercession of the Spirit, the supplication of Your risen Son, and Your fatherly goodness, trusting that near to us, You see our truest needs and You will grant to us those petitions that are beneficial to our faith in Christ and our vocations in which You call us. We place these prayers into Your hands in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Offering

"As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." – 2 Thessalonians 3:13

We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this morning.



Offertory ~ "What Shall I Render" *Lutheran Service Book p. 159*

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.**

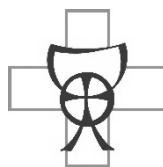
Preface *Sung*

LSB p. 161

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

LSB p. 161

Lord's Prayer *Spoken*

LSB p. 162

The Words of our Lord *Spoken*

LSB p. 162

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

LSB p. 163

Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God"*

LSB p. 163

Distribution Hymns

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

LSB # 813

"Jerusalem the Golden"

LSB # 672

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB # 821

LSB p. 164

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, enlivened our hearts, keep us ever alert and awake, ready to meet You and rejoice in Your drawing near. By Your grace, allow us to stand in Your truth and lift our heads in firm faith, that free from fear, we would witness to Your redeeming love for us and for the world, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #853

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

10:30 a.m. Service

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, enlivened our hearts, keep us ever alert and awake, ready to meet You and rejoice in Your drawing near. By Your grace, allow us to stand in Your truth and lift our heads in firm faith, that free from fear, we would witness to Your redeeming love for us and for the world, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

[P] The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

[C] Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #853

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

Formula of Concord Reading Plan

November – Week 3 – The Week of Nov. 16

The Topic this Month: Election

Read:

- Solid Declaration XI, 33-49 (p. 607-609)

