

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes you to  
The Great Thanksgiving*



*Everyone is Welcome!  
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,  
Let us rejoice together!*





# Today's Readings

Sunday, July 23, 2023  
8th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

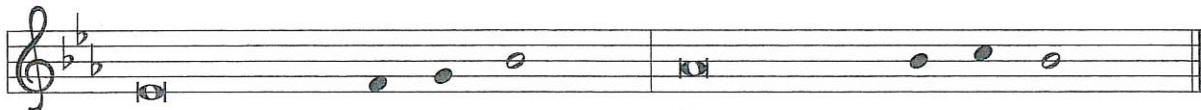
Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth  
before me.  
Who has announced from of old  
the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old  
and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock;  
I know not one.

*or* Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 [not printed]

## Psalm

Psalm 86:11-17; tone 4



Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and I will walk <sup>1</sup> in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart  
to re- <sup>1</sup> vere your name.  
<sup>12</sup>I will thank you, O Lord my God,  
with <sup>1</sup> all my heart,  
and glorify your name  
for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.  
<sup>13</sup>For great is your <sup>1</sup> love toward me;  
you have delivered me  
from the <sup>1</sup> pit of death.  
<sup>14</sup>The arrogant rise up against me,  
O God,  
and a band of violent people  
<sup>1</sup> seeks my life;

they have not set you  
be- <sup>1</sup> fore their eyes.  
<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord,  
are gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger,  
and full of kind- <sup>1</sup> ness and truth.  
<sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mer- <sup>1</sup> cy on me;  
give your strength to your servant,  
and save the child <sup>1</sup> of your handmaid.  
<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it  
and be <sup>1</sup> put to shame;  
because you, LORD,  
have helped me and com- <sup>1</sup> forted me.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

## Gospel

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

TODAY'S READINGS July 23, 2023 (Lectionary 16)

Volume 54, Number 3

Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

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# Listen, God Is Calling

## Neno lake Mungu

Refrain

Leader

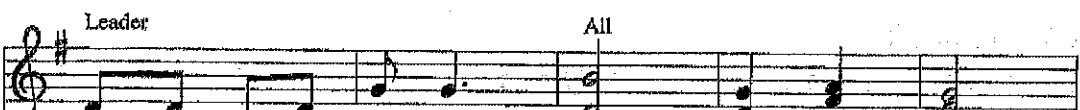
All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
 Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,



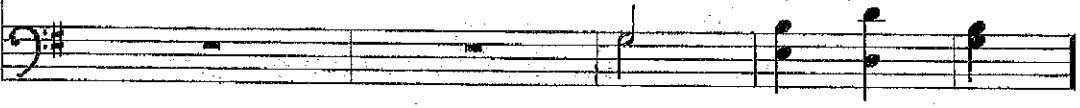
ne - no la - wo - ko - vu, te - na - je - ma. ma.  
 of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.



Leader: Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
 1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
 2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world:  
 3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,



Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
 that he came to save us and set us free.  
 In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
 walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.



**AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:**

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

***We pray always for . . .***

*Judy Brinkman, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass,  
& Haleigh Werner*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring  
in Tanzania.*

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's  
box in the south office. You may email the church office  
[grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)  
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

**Today 7/23/23**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

**Saturday 7/29/23 Annual Quilt Auction @ Carol Joy Holling**

**Next Sunday 7/30/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

**Thank you John Weber for being our Organist!**

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement  
following worship ☺*

School Kit items for Lutheran World Relief are being collected.

The items needed are:

70 sheet spiral notebooks (4 each school kit),

Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons, Ball point Pens,

Unsharpened #2 Pencils, and 12 inch rulers.

School Sales are happening!