

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 1, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

LBW Hymn # 480

"Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

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Second Reading: Philippians 21:1-13

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Gospel Response

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Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW Hymn # 230

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Nicene Creed

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Offertory

"Ask the Complicated Questions"

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The Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord's Prayer

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Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn

LBW Hymn # 501

"He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!"

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Sunday, October 1, 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

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.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9; tone 6



To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.
²**My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.**
³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame
¹who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.**
⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all ¹the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD,
your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth
and ¹my transgressions;
remember me
according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ness,
O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and up- ¹right,
O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners
¹in your way.**
⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

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.

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

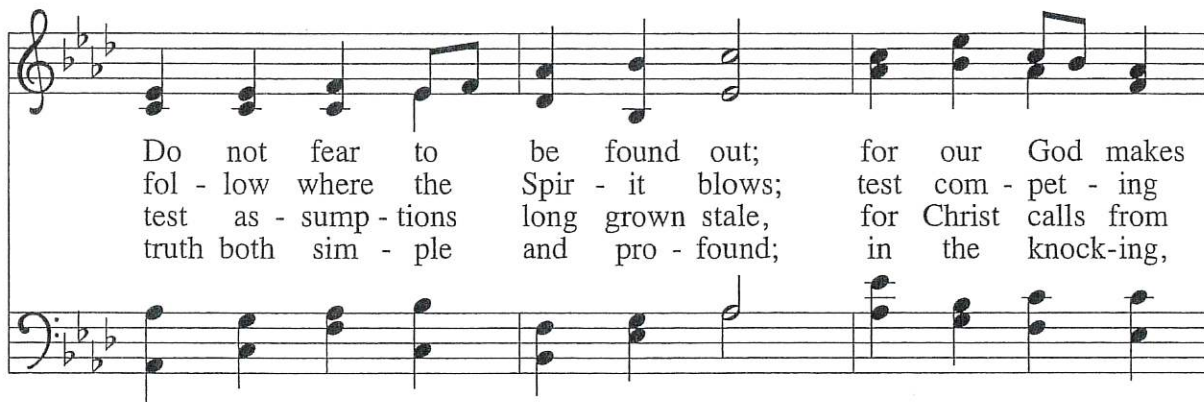
When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also 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.

²⁸"What 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."

1005

Ask the Complicated Questions [H]


1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock-ing,



strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

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 . . .

*Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Gayleen Eden, Eric Fass,
Haleigh Werner & Will Yank*

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*

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

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

Today 10/1/23

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Crop Walk – 2:00 p.m.*

Wednesday 10/4/23

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 10/8/23

MISSION FESTIVAL

*Breakfast – 9:00 a.m.
Luther League Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
Joint Worship – 10:00 a.m.
No Sunday School*

Mission Festival

Mission Fest is October 8 at Grace Lutheran Church with the Joint Worship Service starting at 10:00 a.m. People's City Mission is the highlighted mission this year.



Breakfast will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. Grace will be responsible for providing breakfast casseroles, juice, and coffee. Hope will be requested to provide rolls and side items.

The offering will be for the People's City Mission, and we will also be collecting an in-kind offering of toiletry items such as combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, etc. for the People's City Mission.

LUTHER LEAGUE MEETING

Luther League will be having a planning meeting at 9:30 am before Mission Festival services at Grace on Sunday, October 8th. High school students, as well as confirmation students, are invited to attend. We will be discussing Trunk-or-Treat plans, as well as setting dates for November service and fellowship activities. If you would like to participate, but are unable to attend the meeting, please call or text Nick Weber at 402-310-2136.

GO AND...

ASK

In a world that is shifting and changing, we have come to recognize the importance of asking good questions. Good questions come from intentional listening and a willingness to engage with the unknown. God, Jesus, prophets, disciples, crowds, and Martin Luther all asked questions. As followers of Jesus, we are called to wrestle with questions, which do not always result in clear answers.

Questions to Consider:

- What big questions are on your heart and mind?
- What is a question you are afraid to ask?
- What would you add to Martin Luther's 95 Theses?
- What is a 'GO to' question as you engage in conversation?

Prayer: Knowing God, what are you asking of me? Amen.

Suggested Song: Ask the Complicated Questions (ACS 1005)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org