

# *Grace Lutheran Church*

## *Welcomes You!*



*"The LORD  
is gracious  
and merciful,  
slow to anger  
and abounding  
in steadfast love."*

*Psalm 145:8*

*By Grace you have been saved!  
"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

WOV Hymn # 687

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”

Greeting

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Scripture Song

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Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Jonah 3:10—4:11

See Insert

Psalm 145:1-8

See Insert

The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

See Insert

The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

See Insert

Gospel Acclamation

WOV Page 48

Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “In the Morning When I Rise” WOV Hymn # 777

Response to the Word WOV Page 49

Offering

Offertory “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” See Back Page

Prayers of the Church WOV Page 52

The Lord's Prayer

WOV Page 52

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn WOV Hymn # 723

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

Postlude

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*Noisy coin offering will be collected Today.*

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



# Today's Readings

Sunday, September 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

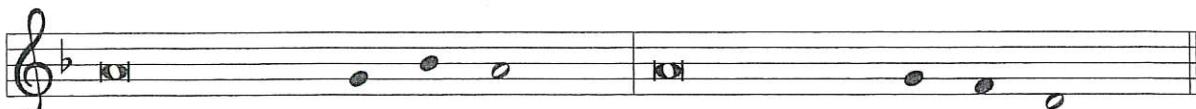
<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give

## Jonah 3:10—4:11

shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

## Psalm



I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.  
<sup>2</sup>Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you  
and praise your name  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.  
<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD  
and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise  
your works <sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power.  
<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor  
<sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.  
<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might  
of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,  
and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.

*continued*

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of<sup>1</sup> your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully<sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full<sup>1</sup> of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in<sup>1</sup> steadfast love.

## Second Reading

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy

## Philippians 1:21-30

of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## Gospel

## Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay,

beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

***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.*

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

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

**Today 9/24/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Wednesday 9/27/23**

*Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.  
Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 10/1/23**

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

*Erna Johns passed away on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the age of  
89 ½ years. Her funeral will be held on Monday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup> at Sheridan Lutheran Church, Lincoln.*

*Viewing is the 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and the  
funeral service is at 2:00 p.m. at the church.*

*If you wish to join in the meal with our Kids for  
Christ on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, please  
call the church @ 402-864-4201, on Monday.*

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*Refrain* F

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,  
3 These are the ones we will serve,  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,

si - lent - ly wash - es their  
var - ied in col - or and  
these are the ones we will  
si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, race, love; feet: mas - ter who acts as a slave to them. neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way. all these are neigh-bors to us and you. this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain*

feet, race, love; feet: mas - ter who acts as a slave to them. neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way. all these are neigh-bors to us and you. this is the way we will live with you.