

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes you to*

*The Great Thanksgiving*



*LIVE BY  
Faith  
GROW IN  
Grace  
WALK IN  
Love*

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

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 3, 2023**

**Pastor Jim Helgren**

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**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Hymn**

**LBW Hymn # 362**

**“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”**

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**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** LBW Hymn # 479

**“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said”**

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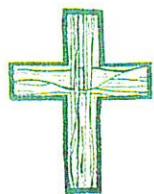
**The Lord’s Prayer** Page 91

**Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer** Page 92

**Benediction & Dismissal**

**Closing Hymn** “Bind Us Together” WOV Hymn # 748

**We carry the “light” out into the world! Depart to serve!**



# Today's Readings

Sunday, September 3, 2023  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me  
on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take  
me away;  
know that on your account I suffer  
insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of  
merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with  
indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful  
brook,  
like waters that fail.

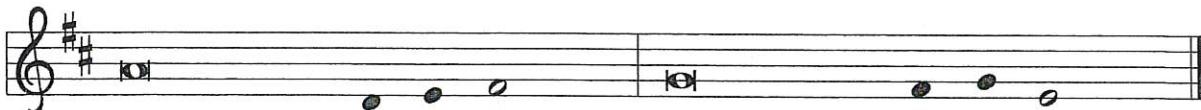
<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not

what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand  
of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp  
of the ruthless.

## Psalm



Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived <sup>1</sup> with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD  
and <sup>1</sup> have not faltered.  
<sup>2</sup>Test me, O <sup>1</sup>LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart <sup>1</sup> and my mind.

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love  
is be- <sup>1</sup> fore my eyes;  
I have walked faithful- <sup>1</sup> ly with you.  
<sup>4</sup>I have not sat <sup>1</sup> with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with <sup>1</sup> the deceitful.  
<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
I will not sit down <sup>1</sup> with the wicked.

Psalm 26:1-8; tone 10

continued

<sup>6</sup>I will wash my hands  
in innocence, O Lord,  
that I may go in procession  
round your altar,  
<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all  
your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house  
in which you dwell  
and the place  
where your glory abides.

## Second Reading

## Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than

you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Gospel

## Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any

want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*Refrain* *F*

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

*F* *Gm* *C<sup>7</sup>* *F*

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

*F* *Dm* *Gm* *C*

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their  
 2. Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and  
 3. These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will  
 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

*F* *Dm* *Dm<sup>7</sup>* *Gm* *C<sup>7</sup>* *F* *Refrain*

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

# GO AND...

**SERVE WITH NEIGHBORS**

As Mr. Rogers asked us – “Who is your neighbor?” Love grounds us as we engage with our neighbors living next door, the people in surrounding communities, and those living beyond our own horizons. Accompaniment calls us to use our God-given gifts and talents as we collaborate, learn from each other, and together walk in agape love.

**Questions to Consider:**

- Who is your neighbor? How do you know?
- What did you discover in walking with your neighbor?
- As you GO with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

**Prayer:** God of Accompaniment, you meet us where we are at. Help us meet our neighbors wherever they might be and walk with them. Amen.

**Suggested Songs:** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708) & God’s Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

*Learn More at [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)*

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](mailto: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 ☺***

***Thank you all for your donations to the  
Lutheran World Relief School Kits!!***

Sunday School begins again next Sunday following  
worship at approximately 9:30 a.m.  
Thank you to Bret & Melissa Wellensiek for leading  
these students.

**Today 9/3/23**

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

**Monday 9/4/23**

Have a Happy & Safe Labor Day!

**Wednesday 9/6/23**

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday 9/7/23**

ELCW Meeting – 7:00 p.m. All Women are Welcome to Come!

**Next Sunday 9/10/23**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 a.m.

# Labor Day

