

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



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

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – (ELW p. 94)**

*Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**A: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

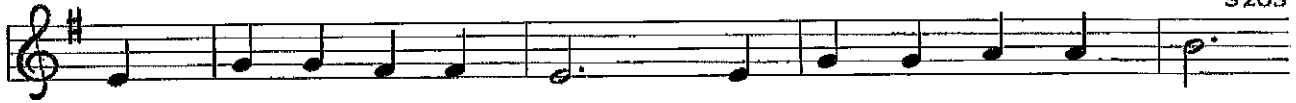
**GREETING – (ELW p. 203)**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

**KYRIE – (ELW p. 203)**

S203



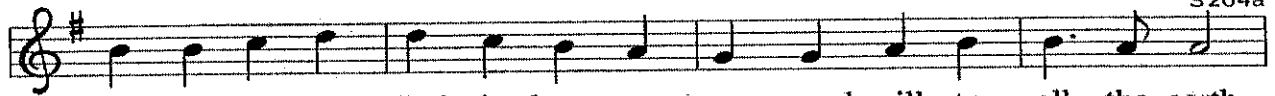
- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



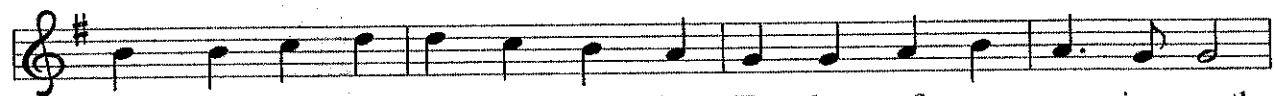
We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**HYMN OF PRAISE – (ELW p. 204a)**

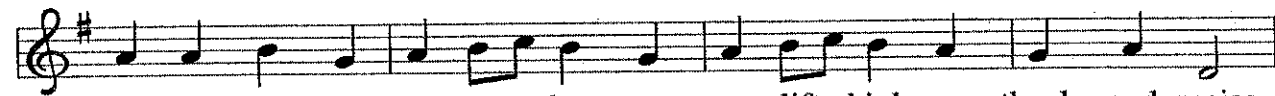
S204a



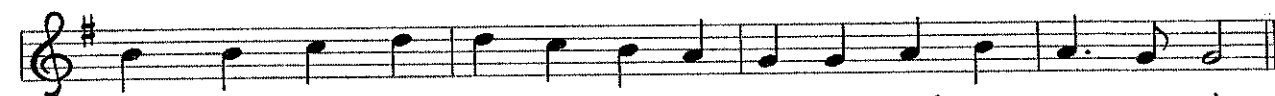
- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth;  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see handout.

**FIRST READING** –Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** - Please see handout and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – (ELW p. 205a)

S 205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy gospel according to ....

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** – Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.** *The assembly sits.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**NICENE CREED – (ELW p. 104)**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the  
Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for  
our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father  
and**

**the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has  
spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the  
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – (ELW p.206)**

Response after each portion of the prayer:

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**A:** hear our prayer.

**PEACE – (ELW p. 206) *Please stand in body or spirit***

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A:** And also with you.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" hymn - ELW #884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING – (ELW p. 206 & 207)**

P: The Lord be with you.

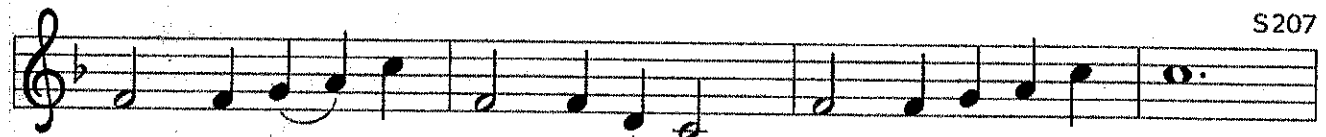
**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

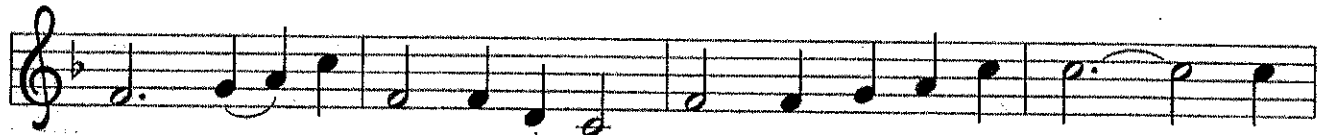


S207

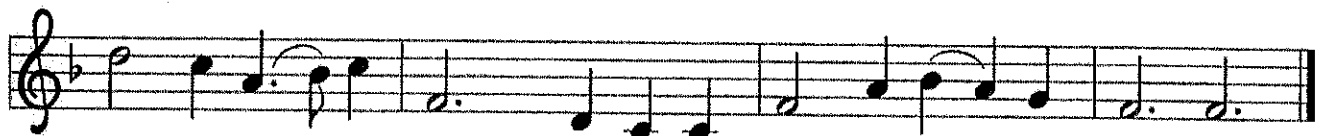
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 208)**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

**LAMB OF GOD – (ELW p. 208)**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

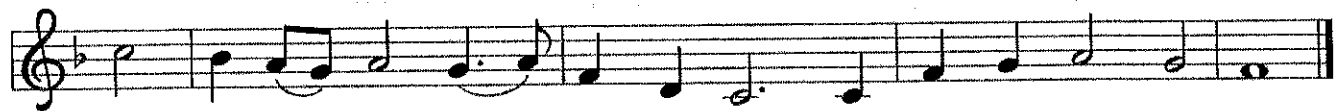
**COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING – (ELW p. 113)**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry  
people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.  
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**BLESSING** – (ELW p. 209)

Response after the blessing:

**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** – (ELW p. 209)

Response after the dismissal:

**A: Thanks be to God.** *The assembly sits.*

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

**SENDING SONG**

Postlude

*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)*

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Song – ELW # 876 “Let the Whole Creation Cry”  
Hymn of the Day – ELW # 796 “How Firm a Foundation”  
Sending Song – ELW # 810 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

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

*Louis & Grace Bentzinger, Gerry Brezenski, Mike Carman, Linda Daniels, Julie Effken,  
Elaine Hauberg, Kathi Johnson, Diane Roesener & Joan Wellensiek*

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

*Juliana, Hassan, Jackline & Charles, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania*

## *Announcements*

**TODAY 6/21/26** 4th Sunday after Pentecost

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

**Pastor will be at Confirmation Camp – June 21 – June 26**

**THURSDAY 6/25/26**

ELCW Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY 6/28/26** 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

*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)**

Pastor will be at Confirmation  
Camp June 21—26. Call his  
cell phone if you need to talk to  
him and he will return the call  
when he is not around  
campers—as per camp rules.

Burr Days Community Worship will be on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Burr Methodist Church. Meal to follow at the Burr Community Center and is sponsored by Burr Community Club.

### PASTOR'S RETIREMENT DINNER

Hope will host Pastor's retirement dinner on Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Worship service will be at 10:00 AM with potluck dinner to follow. The meat will be provided by Hope. Grace members are requested to bring a covered dish.

## Vacation Bible School 2026

Hosted by Grace Lutheran, St. Paul's UCC Osage and Hope Lutheran

All kids pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome!

\*Minimum age of 3 and must be fully potty-trained.\*

Where: St. Paul's UCC Osage, 3288 R Road, Cook, NE

When: July 13-17

5:30-7:45 each evening

Supper provided during VBS

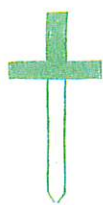
VBS Kids will perform songs at the Cook Community Church Service on July 19<sup>th</sup>!

RSVP: Please RSVP by June 28<sup>th</sup> to ensure we have the necessary T-shirts, food and craft supplies. There is NO COST to attend!

Use the QR code to go directly to registration link or go directly to the following registration link (Google

Form): <https://forms.gle/T7itFZYGTGVqsuVE9>





# Today's Readings

Sunday, June 21, 2026  
4th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

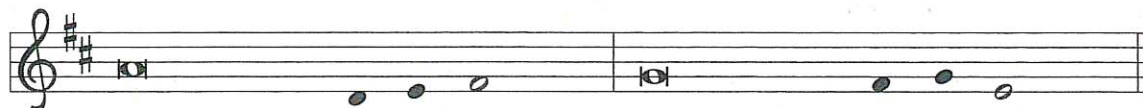
Jeremiah 20:7-13

O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and  
destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become  
for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a  
burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."  
<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a terrifying  
warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.  
<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

## Psalm

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; tone 10



Surely, for your sake  
I have suf- | fered reproach,  
and shame has cov- | ered my face.  
<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger**  
**to | my own kindred,**  
**an alien to my | mother's children.**  
<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn  
you has fall- | en upon me.  
<sup>10</sup>**I humbled my- | self with fasting,**  
**but that was turned to | my reproach.**  
[<sup>11</sup>I put on | sackcloth also,  
and became a by- | word among them.

<sup>12</sup>**Those who sit at the gate**  
**mur- | mur against me,**  
**and the drunkards make | songs about me.**  
<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you,  
at the time you have | set, O LORD:  
"In your great mercy, O God,  
answer me with your un- | failing help."  
<sup>14</sup>**Save me from the mire; do not**  
**| let me sink;**  
**let me be rescued from**  
**those who hate me**  
**and out of | the deep waters.**

*continued*

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swal- | low me up;  
do not let the pit shut its  
| mouth upon me.]

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your | love is kind;  
in your great compassion, | turn to me.

<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face | from your servant;  
be swift and answer me,  
for I am | in distress.

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me | and redeem me;  
because of my enemies de- | liver me.

## Second Reading

## Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We

know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel

## Matthew 10:24-39

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>"Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup>"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

TODAY'S READINGS June 21, 2026 (Lectionary 12)

Volume 57, Number 3

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

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