

Grace Lutheran Church
Pentecost 15
September 13, 2020



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church Online!

We are glad to have you worship with us and we invite you to join us any time on our YouTube channel or on Facebook. The following pages contain the order of worship for this date. Hymns are at the end.

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Pentecost 15

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Congregation responses are in **BOLD**

Prelude

"We Have Met to Worship" - Kidwell

Joys, Concerns and Blessing

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW 834

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Special Music - Georgie Graybill

"Soon and Very Soon" - Raney

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Response at the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Pastor Drennan

Sermon

Pastor Drennan

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"O Christ, Our Hope"

ELW 604

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Great is Your Faithfulness" - Pethel

Thank you to the volunteers who helped make today's worship service special:

Georgie Graybill (Special Music)

Sandy Schantz (Cantor and Lector)

Alice Mudge of Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus (Technical Assistance)

Thank you for being a part of GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ONLINE!
Worship on YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/GraceLutheranChurchMacungiePA

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Junior Choir Director
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The People of Grace Church
The Rev. Samantha Drennan
Steve Ziminsky
Georgie Graybill
Cathy Spengler
Maryann Picarello
Judy Reppert
Gail Pondelek

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY — Sunday September 13 at 11:30 am Join us for Zoom Coffee Hour.

Link: us02web.zoom.us/j/2768654351?pwd=SmFkNGg1V3lzYm40Y2E3dHRwNWVNQT09

Meeting ID: 276 865 4351

Passcode: PROMISE

Food Cupboard Give-Away Help is needed with Grace's newest outreach ministry; giving out non-perishable food items on the last Friday of the month. Distribution takes place at tables under a tent in the parking lot., where people can come and select food they need. Our next Food Cupboard Give-Away will be **Friday, September 25 from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm.** If you can help, please sign up for a volunteer slot. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044baaab28a0f49-september>

Outdoor In-Person Fellowship If you feel ready to do some socially-distanced fellowship, the Parish Life Committee invites you to come out to the Grace Lutheran parking lot on **Saturday September 26 at 6 pm (rain date Sunday September 27)** for an hour or so of conversation and catching up in person. Bring a chair, a beverage, and please wear your mask. There will be a few snacks to enjoy as well. At the August meet-up, 26 people enjoyed each other's company, and we hope to see even more of you next time!

Daybreak Drop-in Center (a ministry of the Lehigh Conference of Churches)

Covid-19 has impacted the program's ability to provide meals and other regular programming. They currently need donations of two kinds:

1) Individually wrapped food items that you would pack in a "to go" bag - any kind of snacks, chips, cookies, protein bars, drinks or dessert would be welcomed.

2) Art supplies - items such as individual packs of markers, glitter/gel pens, glue sticks, water color paints, construction paper, tissue paper and acrylic paint.

If you would like to help the clients at Daybreak, please drop off your donations at the church office between 10 am – 1 pm Monday thru Friday, and place them in the Chapel in the box labeled "Daybreak." Thank you! Thanks also to Bill Konek for delivering your donations to Dubbs Memorial Allentown, where this ministry is located.

Upper Room Devotionals for September are available while supplies last. If you would like one, please call the church office. We can arrange for you to stop by and pick one up or, if you prefer, you can request one be mailed to you. We can always use the encouragement found in the scriptures, in good times and bad.

If you are hospitalized ... Please have a family member call Pastor Samantha or the church office to let us know which hospital you are at, and the room number. If you have an operation or other procedure scheduled ahead of time, let us know prior to your stay. Although we call daily to check for names under Grace Lutheran's hospital code (237), the best way for us to find out so Pastor can visit you is to let us know directly.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561